The National Wool Grower

Volume XLVI MAY 1956 Number 5

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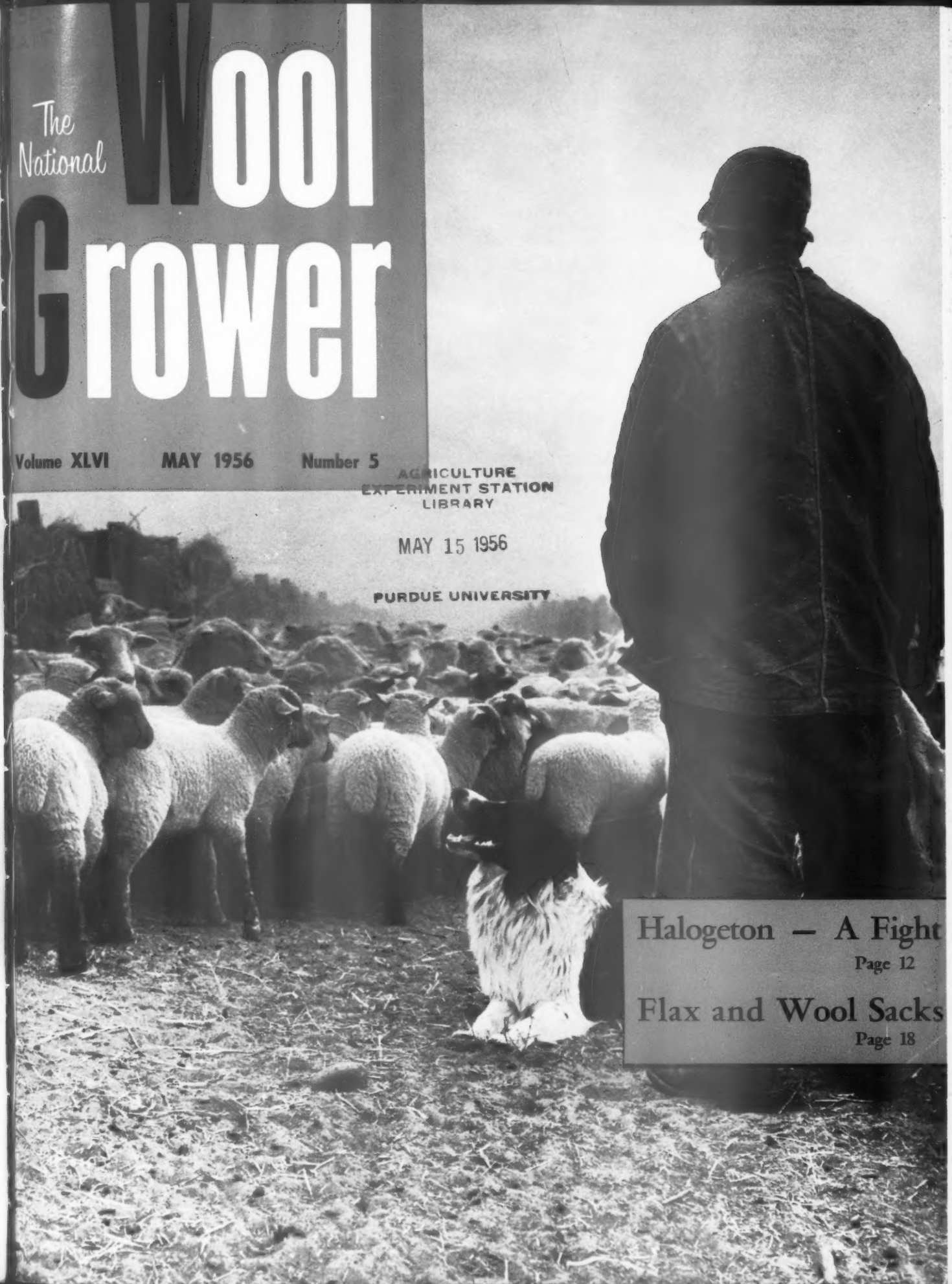

Halogeton — A Fight
Page 12

Flax and Wool Sacks
Page 18

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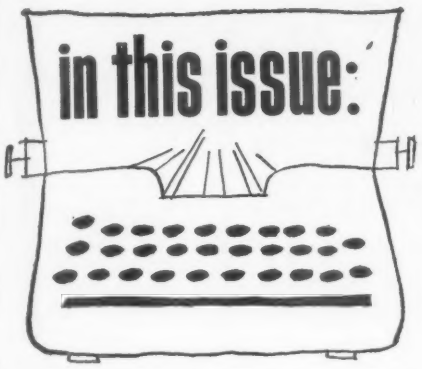


HALOGETON—THE FIGHT CONTINUES:

For sheep, halogeton is a highly poisonous weed. It has claimed many head of all types of livestock in the past few years. What is being done to combat this spreading weed is reported on page 12 in this issue.

ASPC REPORT—IN THREE PARTS:

Results, work and study of the American Sheep Producers Council are reported on in this issue on page 9. Results of the Denver and Imperial Valley campaigns and an outline of upcoming work, plus a list of the working committees from the ASPC board of directors are given in this issue.

VIBRIOSIS—ITS EFFECT ON REPRODUCTION:

Dr. Earl Wiggins, author of the interesting "Cull Those Dry Ewes" article in last month's issue, appears again this month on page 25. In this issue Dr. Wiggins gives a detailed report of the effect that vibriosis has on breeding ewes in subsequent lambings.

APRIL WOOL MARKET REPORT:

Country activity became somewhat more brisk in wool sales and contracting during April. Higher consumption figures thus far in 1956 have acted as a floor on holding wool prices from dropping lower. Complete selling reports and results of CCC sales can be found in this issue on page 22.

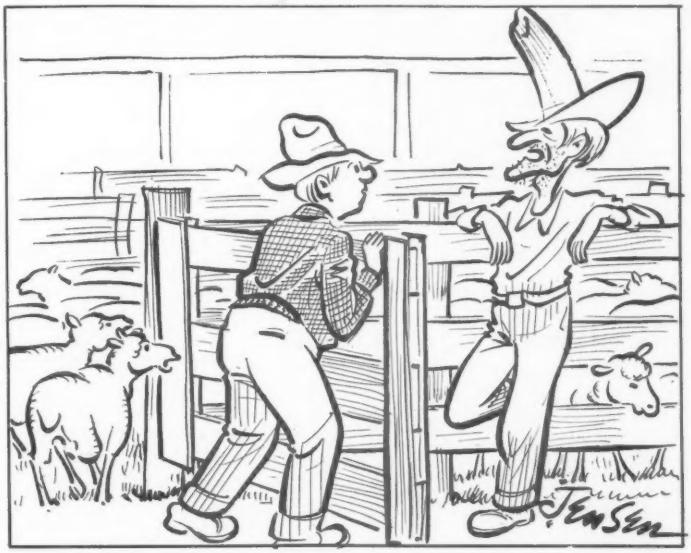
IT'S IN THE BAG:

The wool sack is the symbol of authority in New Zealand, according to Joseph Jones, author of the interesting article regarding the fiber from which these sacks are made, appearing in this issue, page 18. Author Jones tells all about Phormium tenax (flax) the botanical name for the plant which produces the raw material from which wool sacks are made.

WOOL SCIENCE AND WOOL SUPREMACY:

Dr. Gerald Laxer, director of science and technology for The Wool Bureau, gave a very informative speech at the 91st national convention of your National Wool Growers Association in Fort Worth in January. A condensed version of his speech is printed in this issue on page 14.

SHEEPHERDER SAM



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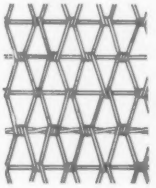

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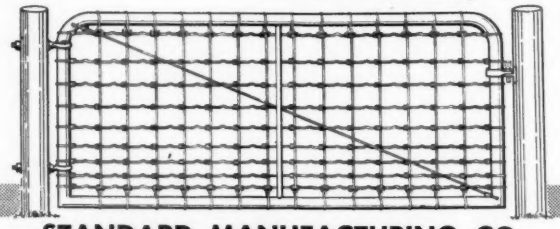

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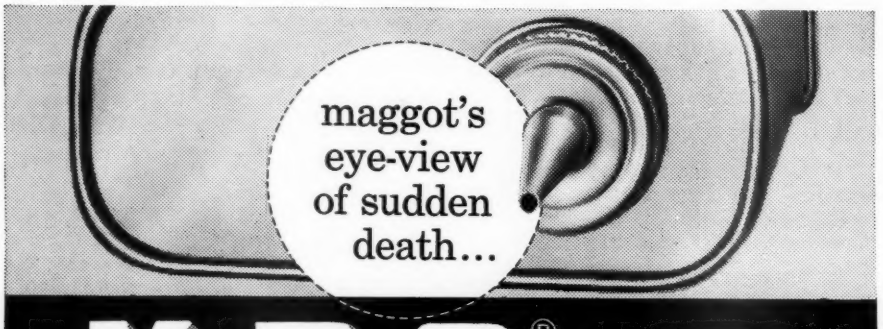

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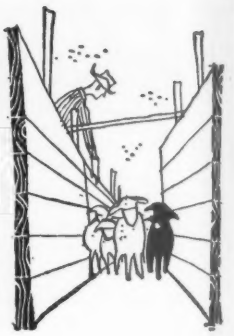

AVOID THE MONDAY RUSH

Avoid the Monday rush of livestock to market!

This is the advice of extension marketing specialist Harry Smith at Colorado A and M College who says that livestock shippers run unnecessary risks when they load the market on Monday.

Top prices on Monday are rare because of the large volume and the reason for heavy Monday marketings, he says, baffles everyone in the livestock industry.

A more even distribution of livestock receipts, Smith says, would bring more even prices, more economical use of labor and equipment, and higher returns to producers.

PORK PURCHASING ENDS

After the early April rise in hog prices, the USDA announced that the request for weekly offers to buy pork products would be discontinued until further notice. Orders already placed, however, called for weekly deliveries through May averaging about 10¼ million pounds a week in April and about 8½ million pounds in May.

Since mid-November, when the special pork-buying program began, 197,572,900 pounds of pork products have been bought. The total estimated cost of the program, including transportation and handling costs, is $102.5 million.

FOREIGN PURCHASING UP

Melville Drisko of the Foreign Agricultural Service spoke recently about the development of foreign markets for meat and animal products before the board of directors of the National Livestock Producers Association in Chicago. He told the group that the export prospects for livestock products for the current year are much more encouraging than they were in 1955. The continuous prosperity in Europe and South America, he said, will provide greater incomes to the average citizen and higher purchasing power.

PRODUCERS GROUP ELECTS

At its annual meeting in March, the National Livestock Producers Association elected John D. Fehsenfeld, Troy, Missouri as president. He succeeds James A. Hooper, Salt Lake City, who was president of the marketing organization for eight years.

DISEASE INFORMATION

Free sheep bulletins on the control of anthrax, bluetongue, enterotoxemia, and ovine ecthyma may be obtained by readers of the NATIONAL WOOL GROWER from the Cutter Laboratories, Department WG-3, Berkeley, California. Write for yours today!

BEEF PROMOTION FUNDS

The Beef Council in a resolution adopted at Kansas City in early April called upon cattle associations to support a 1956 organization and operation budget, together with a special budget in conjunction with other segments of the industry to develop legislation to collect funds on livestock at point of sale for promotion and advertising.

PWG'S NEW DIRECTORS

Louis Levy of Pendleton, Oregon, who is associated with the Cunningham Sheep Company, and A. V. Nixon of Prosser, Washington, are new members of the board of directors of Pacific Wool Growers. They were chosen at the annual election held recently by the Pacific Wool Growers.

Both new directors are leaders in farm and sheepmen's organization activities in their respective states and are referred to by the Pacific Wool Growers as "valuable additions to the Board that governs the Association's policies."

Directors re-elected were: Gaylord Madison, Echo, Oregon; Ronald V. Hogg, Salem, Oregon; C. M. Hubbard, Junction City, Oregon; Robert Campbell, Chehalis, Washington; Clyde Story, Goldendale, Washington; Floyd M. Edwards, Albany, Oregon; H. G. Avery, Union, Oregon; Stanley Christensen, McMinnville, Oregon, R. G. McKenzie, Sixes, Oregon; P. H. Spillman, Powell Butte, Oregon; Chas. Dyar, Roseburg, Oregon; G. A. Sandner, Scio Oregon.

ANTIBIOTIC MEAT STUDIES

New Zealand is experimenting with antibiotic-treated meat in an effort to reduce waste and spoilage in shipment, according to World Farm News.

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers says trial shipments of the antibiotic-treated meat will be made to London in the near future. Selected lots of frozen and chilled beef, lamb and mutton will be treated prior to shipment and the meat will be examined at various times to see how effective the treatment is.

It is believed the antibiotic treatment will greatly reduce spoilage during the shipment of the meat. Supporters of the scheme feel it may result in higher prices to the producer and lower prices to the consumer.

FARM CREDIT CHAIRMAN

At its annual meeting recently the Federal Farm Credit Board elected Marvin J. Briggs as chairman of the Board, and C. H. Matthews as vice chairman. Mr. Briggs is general manager of the Indiana Farm Cooperative Association, Inc., at Indianapolis and Mr. Matthews operates a farm near Eagle Lake, Texas.

"LIVESTOCK BOOKLET"

A revised edition of "Livestock," a special booklet issued by the agricultural development department of Union Pacific Railroad, is now available to farmers and ranchers in the West. The manual may be obtained by writing the Department of Agricultural Development, Union Pacific Railroad, Room 313, 1416 Dodge Street, Omaha 2, Nebraska. The booklet includes the latest information on livestock practices.

about our cover

May, 1956 . . . Spring . . . A sheep herder and his dog take advantage of a moment's rest in a lull between herding their flock and loading them on trucks.

Spring lambing and shearing are completed and it's now time to move the sheep to summer grazing pastures. . . .

The photograph on this month's cover was taken by John A. Bailey of McMinnville, Oregon.

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The National Wool Grower

MAY, 1956

Volume XLVI - Number 5

EDITOR: IRENE YOUNG

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TELEPHONE EMpire 3-4483

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members $5.00 per year: 50 cents per copy. Entered as Second Class Matter, January, 1913, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 8, 1917, authorized August 25, 1918.

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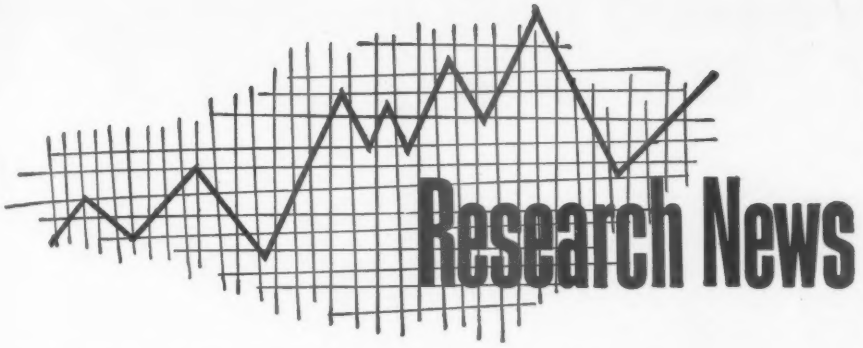

One thorough dusting with 1½ percent dieldrin right after shearing will get rid of ticks in a flock of sheep, according to Entomologist Robert Pfadt of the Wyoming University Experiment Station. The effectiveness of this treatment, Pfadt says, is due to the fact that dieldrin is a tailor-made poison for sheep ticks and it stays in the wool long enough to kill young ticks as they hatch. The use of a power duster at the end of a chute is the easiest way to apply the insecticide and by this method Pfadt says, from 2,000 to 3,000 sheep can be dusted in an hour.

A profitable investment—Additional net income of slightly more than $1,200 per 1,000 ewes was obtained through supplemental feeding of range ewes in tests conducted at the Utah Experiment Station. Feeding increased the average lamb crop percentage more than 10 percent and wool production was increased also.

The test, which included 27 lots, indicated that the largest increase of clean wool production resulted from feeding .28 of a pound of protein concentrate and .46 of an ounce of monosodium phosphate per head daily. The research workers pointed out, "Usually alfalfa hay, dehydrated alfalfa pellets, barley, cottonseed meal, and bone meal (or other safe phosphorus supplements) are the cheapest feeds."

The practice of band seeding hay and pasture crops, in which the grass or legume seeds are placed at precise depths directly above a concentrated band of fertilizer, has important advantages over the broadcast method of planting and fertilizing these crops, according to experiments at the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland. In the Beltsville tests, fertilizer and seeds were applied at various depths, in various amounts, and a direct comparison made between broadcast and band-seeded plots. Tall fescue and ladino clover were used as the pasture mixture.

Here's what the results show: Band-seeded plots yielded 130 percent more forage than where the same amounts of fertilizer and seed were broadcast. Even where only half as much seed and one-third as much fertilizer were banded as were broadcast, the forage yield was 29 percent greater.

Weed growth was found to be very light on the band-seeded plots but heavy on the broadcast plots. Also, the band-seeded plots got off to a more vigorous start which boosted the survival rate later on when weather conditions were unfavorable. And last, but also very important, costs of planting with fertilizer were lower on the band-seed plots since the fertilizer and seed were applied in one operation. The main limitations to band-seeding, the Beltsville researchers point out, is the need for specialized equipment or changes in standard equipment. (See next item.)

A machine that prepares a seedbed, plants grass and legumes, and places fertilizer, all in one operation, has been developed by agricultural engineers at the University of Wyoming. It promises to have practical use on dryland ranges such as those existing in Wyoming. The new machine plants in rows and thus does not need a prepared seedbed to work in. The machine plants in 40-inch rows and leaves 22 inches of undisturbed vegetation between the rows which minimizes danger from wind and water erosion. As the machine plants seed, it can also apply fertilizer directly below the seed. Experiments show that the entire expense of planting an acre of range, including seed, labor, and machine costs (but not the fertilizer), is about $3.25.

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In the Shearing Pen . . .
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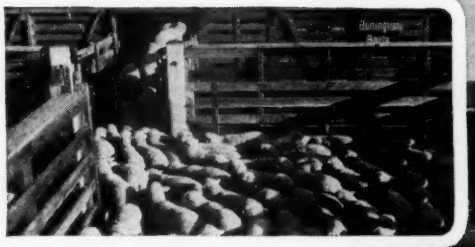

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Your National Wool Growers Association—Since 1865

May, 1956

ON one long wall of the National Wool Growers Association's office in Salt Lake City are two rows of pictures—pictures to which every Association member can point with great pride. They are the presidents of the National Wool Growers Association.

Wool growers know of the high service to the industry and to civic enterprises, both at State and national levels, rendered by the Association presidents during the past two or three decades. But probably the distinction given the NWGA by some of its earlier leaders is not so well known.

The Honorable Henry S. Randall of New York, elected president at that meeting in Syracuse, New York, December 12-13, 1865, when the National Association came into being, was a Doctor of Laws, "whose skill and experience as a breeder, and industrious research and reliability as a writer made him the recognized authority in all matters pertaining to sheep and wool growing." "In consequence of his arduous labors in connection with the tariff," the record states, "he was stricken with paralysis from which he never fully recovered." Following his death, the Honorable A. M. Garland of Illinois was elected president and served from 1877 to 1883. He was a member of the United States Tariff Commission and recognized "as one of its most active and influential members."

Columbus Delano of Ohio, president from 1883 to 1893, was an "influential representative of wool growing in the halls of Congress and in the executive council of the Nation" as Secretary of the Interior.

William Lawrence of Ohio, president from 1893 to 1899, was a member of Congress of the 39th through the 44th sessions and also the first Comptroller of the United States Treasury.

Far Western President

Francis E. Warren of Wyoming, the first far western president (1901-1908) was the first Governor of the State of Wyoming and represented Wyoming in the United States Senate from 1890 to 1893 and again from 1895 to 1929.

Frank R. Gooding of Idaho (1911-1913) was Governor of Idaho from 1905 to 1908 and United States Senator from 1920 to 1928, having finished the term of Senator Nugent of Idaho prior to 1920.

It would require many pages indeed to do justice to the men who have served the wool growers' organization, for to the presidents there should be added the vice presidents, the executive committee members and other State and National Association officers. To pay tribute to these men, however, is not our main purpose. We just want to point up the fact that the National Wool Growers Association and its State affiliates have never lacked that major requisite of a strong organization—good leadership. There have always been men of high caliber who have given generously of their time and talents in promoting the welfare of those engaged in the sheep business and, above all, have recognized the need for, and value of a strong, unified sheepmen's organization.

However, it takes more than leadership to make an effective association. Its working strength is measured by the loyal support of the rank and file of its members. Through 90 years such support has been given to the National Wool Growers Association. Despite the rise of many important agricultural groups and also several agencies set up under NWGA sponsorship, its members have always apparently sensed the value to them of having an effective organization looking after the industry's own particular needs.

Organization Work

In the past year sheepmen of the Nation, by taking advantage of the provision of Section 708 of the National Wool Act—obtained through organization work—have inaugurated a lamb and wool promotion and advertising program that, for the first time in the industry's history, wool growers over the entire country are helping to finance. To handle this nation-wide program, the American Sheep Producers Council has been set up. With representatives of producer groups directing general policies, with experienced advertising agencies taking care of promotion and advertising details and with the United States Department of Agriculture casting an advisory eye over the entire procedure, the ASPC should bring in some very profitable results for the producers of lamb and wool.

But the ASPC can only handle promotion and advertising of lamb and wool. Its function ends there. It is very obvious that that leaves a great variety of problems to be taken care of by the National and State Associations.

Paramount and immediate is the million dollar question: "What's wrong with the wool market?" While the Association hasn't that much money to pay for the correct answer, it is using every available means to bring to light some of the factors that may be working against the higher prices justified in view of present world markets. One of the questions to be answered along the way to the top plateau is: "How much influence is exerted by the grease wool and wool top futures market upon the merchandising or spot market?" Association leaders are now working on that factor.

The Tariff Problem

And, of course, there is the tariff problem. An Administration commitment, secured through Association efforts, has eliminated wool from the commodity list now being considered for further tariff reductions. That is well, of course, but we do not have an adequate tariff—deemed by the National Wool Growers Association since 1865 as an essential to the economic welfare of the sheep industry. Since all recent efforts for an increase in wool tariffs have been without avail, the National Association has joined forces with other groups seeking greater protection through import quotas. There is a long hard pull ahead here that will require the strongest possible organization arm. And, of course, there are general tariff problems—OTC, GATT, Customs Simplifications Bill, all of which seem very dangerous not only to the sheep industry but to the country as a whole.

Then, we have a lamb grading problem that the Association is working on in cooperation with other industry segments, and the overall lamb marketing difficulties. Also, it's been a long time since there were so many bills introduced in Congress dealing with various aspects of the use of Federal lands. Some of them are very pertinent to the grazing use of National Forest and Taylor District lands, although the

measure that was framed by stockmen to give greater stability to such grazing use has not come to the front in this session of Congress. All of these matters must be studied, watched and acted upon if action is considered desirable for the stockmen's interest.

The National Wool Growers Association—and when we refer to the National, we automatically include the State associations — has also spearheaded activities and must continue to work on sheep disease prevention and eradication, particularly in connection with vibriosis and scabies. It has likewise worked for sufficient appropriations to control predators.

One of the important functions of the sheepmen's organization lies in the field of research, for as important as advertising is in this present era, research ranks with and in some respects exceeds it. If promotion is to achieve its greatest success, it must be based on important new facts revealed by research. It is the duty of the National Association to see that the sheep industry receives its proper share of the research conducted by USDA's Agricultural Research Service and that such research is pointed in the right direction for the ultimate benefit of the industry. And it is, of course, essential that sheepmen apply the improved management, feeding and breeding practices brought to light by research.

We are not attempting to remind you of the accomplishments of your State and National Associations. If you stop to think, we believe you will agree there have been many of them—a more recent one, the enactment of the National Wool Act, whose full potentialities in providing the means to improve and expand the industry it is too early to evaluate. But we are now concerned with current problems that confront the industry. A strong organization, supported 100 percent by its members, is necessary to get the job done.

—I. Y.

FOR LIVESTOCKMEN—

Proposed Tax Relief Legislation

by STEPHEN H. HART
Attorney,
National Live Stock Tax Committee

TAX relief legislation which is vital to the welfare of stockmen who have been and are being forced to sell livestock because of drought is presently pending before Congress, and every such stockman should be aware of it and give this legislation active support. All that is needed for this legislation to be enacted is a final push since in principle it already has the approval of the Treasury and the appropriate Committees of both Houses of Congress. Here is what this legislation has to offer the drought-stricken stockman as far as his distress sales of livestock are concerned:

Under the 1954 Internal Revenue Code, and specifically, Section 1033 thereof, it is provided in substance that when a taxpayer involuntarily converts property into money, and makes a profit on the transaction, **he will not be taxed on this profit** provided he meets certain requirements. For example, when a barn burns down, if the barn had been depreciated to a value of $500 and the stockman received $1,000 from the insurance company, he would have realized a gain to the extent of $500 and in the absence of the provisions of Section 1033 (known as the "involuntary conversion" section) he would have to pay a tax on that $500. Under the involuntary conversion section he need not pay a tax on that $500 if he invests all of it in the purchase of a new barn within one year from the date of the destruction of the barn or such longer period as the Secretary of Treasury approves.

Although these involuntary conversion provisions have been in the Code for many years and the Congress has thereby recognized that it is unfair to tax a man on an enforced profit reinvested in similar property, nevertheless these provisions have not applied to stockmen who were forced to sell their livestock because of drought. Thus, for example, Stockman Jones who is on a cash basis has 100 cows which he has raised and which he is forced to sell because of drought. He realizes, say $10,000 from the sale, and since these cows stood on his books at no cost, his gain from the transaction is virtually the full $10,000. He is required to pay the Government a large part of this in taxes. Thus, without any fault on his part, Jones loses a sizable amount of tax money to the Government when he needs this money to replace his herd at the expiration of the drought. If this proposed legislation is enacted into law, Jones will not have to pay any tax on the $10,000 received by him because of his forced sale, provided that within one year, or such longer time as the Secretary agrees is reasonable, he reinvests the $10,000 in the purchase of stock of the same kind as that which he sold. Thus Jones will have available to him all of the sale proceeds for the purpose of purchasing a new herd at the expiration of the drought and he will not have been penalized tax-wise because of the drought.

Several previous attempts have been made to secure this amendment to Section 1033. The proposed amendment, which has been approved by the Treasury and is now ready for consideration by the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, reads as follows:

"That (a) section 1033 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (relating to involuntary conversions) is hereby amended by redesignating subsection (f) thereof as subsection (g) and by inserting after subsection (e) of such section the following new subsection:

'(f) LIVESTOCK SOLD ON ACCOUNT OF DROUGHT. The sale of livestock (other than poultry) held by a taxpayer for draft, breeding, or dairy purposes in excess of the number the taxpayer would sell if he followed his usual business practices shall be treated as an involuntary conversion to which this section applies if such livestock are sold by such taxpayer solely on account of drought.'

"(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply only with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1954."

You will note that this revised bill is limited to drought. It was originally proposed that the bill should include not only drought, but other disasters such as blizzards, floods, hurricanes, etc. I think that in principle it should extend to such other disasters, but they are not as frequent causes of forced sales of livestock as is drought, and the Treasury Department is presently opposed to broadening the bill to that extent. I think that the bill should be thus broadened and our National Livestock Tax Committee will continue to urge such broadening. However, it is the general feeling that if the Treasury Department remains adamant it would be better to have the bill enacted as it is presently worded and hope that an amendment can be effected at some later date.

It is important that the bill be enacted as soon as possible. It should apply to the year 1955, and the longer it is delayed the greater is the possibility that the Congress, disliking retroactive laws, will feel that it should be applicable only to the year 1956. In view of this situation, you may wish to contact your Senators and Congressmen at the earliest possible time. (This drought tax relief is attached to H.R. 6143 as an amendment. A wire from Mr. Hart on May 1 stated it had been adopted by the Senate Finance Committee.)

AMERICAN SHEEP PRODUCERS COUNCIL REPORT

1 Denver Lamb Campaign Results

2 Regional Promotions Begin

3 Special Committees Named

LAMB consumption in Denver was more than doubled during the special lamb promotion campaign held in that area from mid-January to the end of February by the American Sheep Producers Council. This was the estimate of Gale D. Smith, merchandising man for the campaign.

During the promotion period lamb consumption increased from approximately 3 percent of all red meat to about 7 percent. Previously, the average Denverite ate an estimated four to five pounds of lamb a year. During the promotion consumption was boosted to a rate corresponding to 10½ pounds a year, retailer reports indicate.

Before the promotion, lamb amounted to 2½ to 3 percent of the red meat volume of the five major Denver chains, who do 80 percent of Denver's meat business. One chain, whose lamb business was 2.4 percent of its meat volume, increased it to nearly 10 percent for the promotion period. Another chain increased its lamb percentage from 2 to 6.6 percent. A third reported a lamb gain from 3 to 5.8 percent.

"The market price of lamb in Denver during the period of this promotion was very steady," Mr. Smith reports. "Many commission salesmen intimated that the program had a definite beneficial effect on the stability of the live market."

IMPERIAL VALLEY COOPERATIVE PROMOTION

Although prices were more favorable to retailers than producers, ASPC's cooperative promotion in greater Los Angeles with the Imperial Valley Lamb Feeders Association materially assisted the movement of a large crop of lambs estimated at 275,000 head, with approximately 50,000 more lambs on nearby Arizona pastures, Mr. Smith pointed out.

Thirty large chains in metropolitan Los Angeles, each of whom was personally contacted and notified of the promotion program, all held special lamb sales during the period. Some held as many as three sales.

Lamb accounts for about 7 percent of the meat volume of those chains handling it in southern California; during the sales the percentage increased to approximately 35 percent.

OTHER REGIONAL PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS

Following intensive research by the ASPC and its advertising agency, Botsford, Constantine and Gardner, the following markets were selected for promotions through July 1956:

Birmingham, Alabama — Mid-March through April

California Valleys—Mid-March through May (Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield)

Texas—May and June (Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth)

Cleveland, Ohio — Mid-June through July

In each of the mentioned markets, there will be a continuing campaign of advertising on a lesser scale after the intensive promotional program is concluded.

These markets were selected after consideration of such factors as per capita consumption, proximity to available supply, acceptability of heavy vs. light lambs, existing channels of distribution, availability of Department of Agriculture research facilities, and timing in relation to lamb crops.

WOOL PROMOTION UNDERTAKEN

On December 13, 1955, in a meeting at Denver, the ASPC board of directors voted to allocate $20,000 of the January to May 1956 budget to the American Wool Council for wool promotion through The Wool Bureau.

At the same meeting, the directors voted to allocate $40,000 of the May to July 1956 budget for the same purpose and through the same channels.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES NAMED

ASPC President G. N. Winder appointed three committees to study various promotion problems and possibilities with budget limitations and to report on their findings at the May 21 to 23 meeting of the board of directors.

The committees are:

Wool—Walter Pfluger, Eden, Texas, a director from the National Wool Growers Association, chairman; James H. Lemmon, Lemmon, South Dakota, president and board member from the National Wool Marketing Corp.; Roy A. Ward, Portland, Oregon, general manager and board member from the Pacific Wool Growers; Harold Josendal, Casper, Wyoming, NWGA board member; and A. S. MacArthur, Wagon Mound, New Mexico, board member from the New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.

WALTER PFLUGER

Lamb—I. H. Jacob, Salt Lake City, a director from the National Livestock Producers Association, chairman; John W. Noh, Kimberly, Idaho, NWGA director; L. A. Kauffman, Columbus, Ohio, director from the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association; A. E. Adams, Mission, Kansas, director from the National Lamb Feeders Association; and Frank Lebus of Cynthia, Kentucky, director from the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

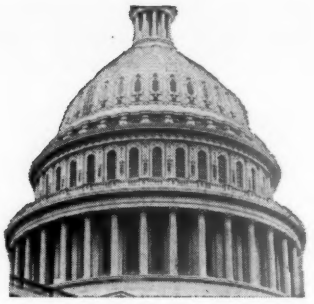
I. H. JACOB

Administration—J. K. Sexton, Willows, California, NWGA director, chairman; Oren A. Wright, Greenwood, Indiana, National Farmers Union director; Clifford G. Bell, Doland, South Dakota, National Grange director; Penrose B. Metcalfe, San Angelo, Texas, NWGA director; and Lehi M. Jones, Cedar City, Utah, National Wool Marketing Corporation director.

J. K. SEXTON

The May 21 to 23 board of directors meeting of the ASPC will be held in Denver, Colorado.

NWGA Relates Plight of Mills Before Reciprocity Committee



Statement of the position of the National Wool Growers Association before the Committee for Reciprocity Information in hearings commencing April 2, 1956, concerning concession by the United States on woolens and worsted in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

by EDWIN E. MARSH
NWGA Executive Secretary

THE wool growers of this Nation are vitally concerned in seeing that our domestic wool textile mills are in a sound economic condition. The reason for this is that they are the only customers we have. Any sensible business man is interested in seeing that his customers are able to buy, and at a price which will enable that business man to meet his costs of production.

No extensive investigation would be required to reveal that our Nation's wool textile mills have generally suffered from serious financial reverses during the past few years; in fact some of them, including prominent firms, have had to lay off their employees and close their doors. You've heard testimony in this regard today, so I will not go into that. It is true that several factors have occasioned this, including competition from synthetic fibers, but it is also true that one of the factors in this economic dislocation has been foreign competition and increasing imports from countries with wages and production costs below ours—in some instances fantastically below ours.

The year the Geneva concessions became effective, 1948, imports to the United States under Sections 1108 and 1109 (a) of the Tariff Act only totaled 4,703,319 pounds. By 1955 they had more than tripled, totaling 14,317,990 pounds. When the Geneva concessions were made, these wool textile imports to the United States represented between one and two percent of our domestic production. In view of this, certainly the reservation in the Geneva Agreement was a most generous one because it did not prohibit a very, very large increase in imports of wool textiles at a substantially reduced duty. Probably at the time of the Geneva agreements no one ever dreamed that imports would increase so tremendously and come anywhere near, let alone exceed, five percent of our domestic production. However, it is obvious to our organization that this point has been reached and that these imports do now exceed five percent of the average annual domestic production for the preceding three years. It is obvious when comparisons are made on a yardage basis and it is also obvious when comparisons are made on the best poundage figures available; namely, those calculated by the United States Tariff Commission on the basis of yardage and poundage data reported in the 1947 Census of Manufactures. Certainly the compilations of this reliable Government agency must be given credence.

We are submitting a table which compares imports of woolens and worsteds with domestic production of woolen and worsted fabrics containing 25 percent or more wool by weight for the preceding four years, including domestic production of military fabrics. It also shows the percentage relationship of 1955 imports to the annual average U. S. domestic production for the preceding three years, 1952-54 inclusive. These figures show that relationship to be 5.66 percent.

I should like to point out that these statistics, in the opinion of the National Wool Growers Association, are not completely fair in showing the ratio between domestic production and imports. In the first place, military production is included in domestic production figures. We maintain that a percentage comparison should be between domestic production of civilian wool fabrics and similar imported civilian wool fabrics. Furthermore, we have included in this table domestic production of fabrics which contain only 25 to 49.9 percent wool, by weight. Some of these fabrics could not be correctly defined as fabrics wholly or in chief value of wool. Therefore, if we were to exclude both military production and also fabrics containing only 25 to 49.9 percent wool by weight, this table would show that imports of wool textiles for 1955 were 6.71 percent of the average annual domestic production for the preceding three years.

Either with the inclusion or exclusion of military fabric production, as well as the inclusion or exclusion of fabrics containing less than 50 percent wool, statistics definitely reveal that the time has come to exercise the right reserved when this tariff concession was made. And it is important also to state that this may be only the beginning of increased imports when we consider the potential production possibilities of such countries as Japan and Italy. Japan, for example, through the purchase of more and more of the very latest in looms—in fact, the same machinery as ours—has been able to step up her wool textile production tremendously. According to the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, imports of Japanese cloth which amounted to only 178,000 square yards in 1951, jumped to 2,662,000 square yards in 1955, an increase in that four-year period of 1395 percent. If it were necessary, in order to capture more of our business, Japan might further reduce her selling prices, which should be an easy matter when we consider that wage rates there are reported to be approximately 12 cents per hour compared to ours of approximately $1.50 per hour.

In order to preserve not only a domestic wool textile industry, but also a domestic sheep growing industry, we sincerely urge as one means of relief that the U. S. exercise the right granted and agreed to in the terms of the note made at Geneva when this concession was granted. I think we should bear in mind the following facts:

1. First of all, I do not believe that this should be considered as an increase in the tariff. The United States reduced the tariff on wool textiles entering this country, generously granting export countries an opportunity to greatly increase their shipments to the United States at a decreased tariff rate. In my opinion, the nations at Geneva must have readily recognized our right to such a reservation if imports ever soared to such undreamed of levels.

2. Another point I think we should keep in mind is that the issue here is **not** one of injuring feelings or imperiling friendly relations with our Allies. The countries taking part in the Geneva conference agreed in good faith to this tariff concession and the reservation therein. We have kept faith with these countries by adhering to this tariff reduction. They will be breaking faith with us if they attempt to deny our right to this reservation which they have approved.

3. If we do not adhere to the right granted in this reservation, we are, in effect, granting another tariff concession and a one-sided tariff concession in

which we will get nothing in return. It will be a concession at the further expense of our already economically depressed domestic wool textile mills, our textile workers, and, for that matter, the domestic sheep producing industry.

We therefore respectfully urge, in the national interest and to avoid further injury to domestic industry, that a 45 percent ad valorem duty be invoked under the terms of this reservation.

U. S. production (including military) of woolen and worsted apparel fabrics containing 25 percent or more wool by weight, compared to imports of woolens and worsteds

Year	Domestic Production*	Imports**
	(In thousands of pounds)	
1952	282,507	12,493
1953	252,687	12,055
1954	223,476	9,291
1955	260,113	14,318

Percentage Relationship of 1955 Imports to Annual Average U. S. Domestic Production, 1952-1954:

A. On Basis Above, **5.66 Percent**

B. With Exclusion of U. S. Military Production and U. S. Production of Fabrics Containing Less Than 50 Percent Wool By Weight, **6.71 Percent**

Sources:

*Calculated by the U. S. Tariff Commission from yardage and poundage data reported in the 1947 Census of Manufactures and published in Table 3 of United States Tariff Commission Report No. 28827, March, 1956.

**Official statistics of U. S. Department of Commerce.

In Memoriam

FRANK S. BOICE

ONE of the Nation's outstanding cattlemen, Frank S. Boice, died early in April in a Tucson, Arizona hospital. He was 61.

During his successful career, Mr. Boice had served as president of the American National Cattlemen's Association, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, and chairman of the National Livestock Tax Committee.

He played an active part in working out income tax procedures for determining the taxable profits of livestockmen. At the time of his death, Mr. Boice was serving on the advisory committee to Secretary of Agriculture Benson in connection with cattle marketing and production research.

He is survived by his widow, Mary, and two sons.

GEORGE L. BEAL
A man with many talents.

GEORGE LEON BEAL

GEORGE L. Beal, 60, one of the Nation's top-ranking Rambouillet breeders, died at his home in Ephraim, Utah, on April 26, following several months' illness.

Mr. Beal had been a consignor to the National Ram Sale since 1933. On several occasions his entries topped the Rambouillet division. His Rambouillets also made high records at many other sales. He was president of the Sanpete Ram Sale and manager of the Sanpete Rambouillet and Junior Livestock Show.

In addition to his activities as a breeder of fine sheep, Mr. Beal was a prominent educator, specializing in music and band instruction, and also participated in, and officiated at, many athletic events.

Mr. Beal served as Mayor of Ephraim for one term and was active in the affairs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Funeral services were held in Ephraim on April 30.

He is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters. Mr. Beal's two sons will reportedly continue to operate the George L. Beal and Sons sheep business.

To Mr. Beal's family and friends, the National Wool Growers Association, in behalf of its officers and members, extends very sincere sympathy.

C. W. HICKMAN

PROFESSOR C. W. Hickman, 68, died suddenly the evening of April 20, in Moscow, Idaho. He was stricken after serving as master of ceremonies at a testimonial banquet to Bill Florence, retiring herdsman at the University of Idaho.

Professor Hickman's service with the University of Idaho had been long. For many years he was head of the Department of Animal Husbandry, and in 1946 and 1947 acting Dean of the College of Agriculture. He retired as head of the Animal Husbandry Department in 1951 to serve again as a professor in the department.

As secretary of the American Suffolk Sheep Society since 1935, he also made a signal contribution to the development of the popularity of the Suffolk breed in America. The gratitude of the Suffolk breeders for his services was expressed in 1952 when they authorized and financed a tour to the famous Suffolk flocks of England and Scotland for him. Readers of the NATIONAL WOOL GROWER will recall his very interesting report of that tour and the story of the sheep farm at Rambouillet, France. Professor Hickman was also widely known as a livestock judge and served at many State fairs and national shows.

Mrs. Hickman and two daughters by his first wife, who preceded him in death, survive. Funeral services were held Monday, April 23, in Moscow.

Professor Hickman was one of the livestock industry's best known and highly respected friends. The officers and members of the National Wool Growers Association join with the family and his legion of friends in mourning his passing.

JOHN M. McGREGOR

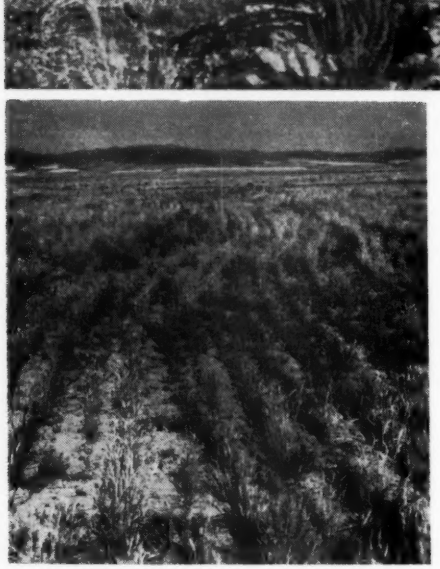
JOHN Maurice McGregor, son of one of the founders of the McGregor Land and Livestock Company, died the middle of April at his home at Hooper, Washington, of a heart condition. He was president of the ranching firm whose holdings cover 33,000 acres. Mr. McGregor's achievements as a rancher were featured in Western Livestock's "Portrait of a Cattleman" in August, 1952.

In addition to directing the operations of the ranch, he was also a director of the Spokane and Eastern Branch of the Seattle First National Bank and the Pacific Northwest Credit Association. He had also served two terms on the Federal Reserve Board in Spokane and Seattle and was chairman of the West Whitman Soil Conservation District board of supervisors.

He is survived by his widow and two sons, John and William, who is the first vice president of the Washington Wool Growers Association. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family in their loss by the National Wool Growers Association.

Additional Funds Aid BLM Fight Against Halogeton

An oil line right-of-way in Idaho invaded by halogeton before scar line could be revegetated is pictured left.



Heavy infestation of halogeton in southern Idaho is fighting a losing battle with crested wheatgrass in this second-year reseeding. Drilled rows of wheatgrass are apparent in above photo.

Luxuriant growth of crested wheatgrass in southeastern Utah after two years' benefit from Crescent Junction Waterspreading Project is shown above. A light stand of halogeton was eradicated by the remarkable growth of the perennial grass in an area of very scant rainfall.

THE Bureau of Land Management began a more aggressive halogeton control program when additional funds were made available and enactment of the Halogeton Glomeratus Act of 1952. While halogeton is still public enemy No. 1 on the public land range, encouraging results are being obtained in slowing down its rate of spread to new lands and in some areas the plant is being successfully controlled.

Halogeton is by far the most serious range weed on the public lands because of its poisonous qualities, explosive rate of spread and its ability to grow under practically all soil and climatic conditions in the West. Apparently it will thrive on all soils except almost pure sand and salt. Other noxious and poisonous weeds in certain areas may be more of a local problem than halogeton but generally these weeds do not spread like halogeton because they are more restrictive in their soil and climatic requirements.

In 1951 it was estimated that halogeton had infested only about one and one half million acres but in 1955 surveys showed that more than nine million acres of western range lands were infested. The main body of infestation is located in Nevada, Utah, and Idaho but the States of California, Oregon, Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado are now involved with the problem in varying degrees. Halogeton is so elusive and explosive in its spread that it takes constant vigilance to locate new spot infestations before they spread to serious proportions.

Reliable estimates indicate that more than 50 million acres of the public range is highly susceptible to invasion by halogeton.

Livestock losses are still occurring in certain areas in spite of the efforts of herders to avoid areas of heavy infestations. Most losses occur when livestock are tired and hungry as a result of driving or moving long distances.

Halogeton poisoning hits sheep much harder than cattle. Losses generally occur in the late fall or early winter in areas where halogeton grows rank and dense and comprises most of the available forage.

Some livestock growers wonder why more losses are not incurred in the winter range areas. There are several reasons for this. (a) It is known that most of the oxalic acid that causes death is contained in the leaves and seeds of the plant. The halogeton oxalate precipitates the calcium out of the blood stream of livestock that eat a lethal dose. Generally most of the seeds and leaves have dropped from the plant before livestock begin to use the winter range. (b) Fortunately halogeton is quite unpalatable to both sheep and cattle and they generally will not eat too much halogeton when other forage is available. (c) In a good many of the winter range areas competition from other species keeps halogeton from growing higher than two to four inches except in swales or gullies where additional moisture collects. When snow covers the winter range halogeton is covered and other more palatable vegetation is generally more readily accessible for use.

In spite of all the problems connected with halogeton control the BLM's current range conservation, soil and moisture conservation, and weed control programs are making significant progress in controlling halogeton and improving the public land range.

The soil and moisture conservation program is primarily geared to erosion control and protecting the range from further damage. Under this program about 75,000 acres are seeded and watershed protection is applied to more than 1,000,000 acres each year.

The range improvement program, which is financed by range improvement fees collected from range users, is geared to build stock watering facilities, fences, roads, corrals, and other projects aimed at facilitating range management. The halogeton control program is four-phased.

First, surveys are made to determine proper means of control and to determine the location, density, and direction of halogeton spread.

Second, chemical spraying is used to control and eradicate isolated spot in-

festations. Spraying may also be done along perimeter areas and avenues of spread to prevent seed production and reduce the rate of halogeton spread. If conditions warrant, spraying may be done in and around stock driveways, loading corrals and watering places if these areas would be dangerous to use. Since the inception of the program in 1952 more than 83,000 acres of halogeton have been sprayed and an average of from 10,000 to 15,000 acres are treated annually. Several small spot infestations have been eradicated and chemical spraying has been effective in other areas.

Third, infested and threatened areas are seeded to hardy perennial grass that will crowd out halogeton, prevent spreading and at the same time produce forage for livestock removed from infested areas that are unsuitable for grazing or reseeding. Reseedings have been made mostly in Idaho, Nevada, and Utah in the better soil areas with nine inches or more of rainfall. More than 403,000 acres have been seeded through fiscal year 1955 and it is estimated that about 80,000 acres will be seeded in 1956 and each subsequent year. The successful seedings are definitely controlling halogeton and they are having a beneficial effect in improving adjacent ranges.

Fourth, in the drier and poorer soil areas, primarily in Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado where grass seedings can't successfully be established, forage development projects such as contour furrowing, water spreading, pitting, basin listing, protection fencing, management fencing and proper range management are being used to control halogeton. The objective is to gradually obtain the best possible stand of native plants so that halogeton will be crowded out. More than one thousand miles of fence have been built and over 62,000 acres have been treated in forage development projects. In many of these areas the native vegetation is responding favorably to proper use and management, and halogeton is gradually being crowded out.

In the halogeton control program, every effort is being made to carry out a coordinated attack against halogeton. Range users are doing their share, and the Bureau is cooperating with the land grant colleges of Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming in studies designed to find the most practical methods of control. Valuable information has been developed on when and how to spray halogeton. New chemicals for pre-emergence trials appear promising.

In looking at the whole picture, there is good reason to believe that through proper use of the range coupled with the range improvement, soil and moisture and weed control programs, the public land range will gradually be restored to its highest grazing capacity. This will mean that weeds will have been controlled to such an extent that they are an insignificant problem.

A Solution to the Halogeton Problem?

FOREIGN WEED-KILLING INSECTS COULD WIPE OUT SPREADING POISONOUS WEED

FOREIGN insects with weed killing power may prove to be an effective means of wiping out halogeton, a fast spreading poisonous range weed, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

USDA Entomologist G. B. Vogt will leave early this spring for the Mediterranean area, North Africa, and the Near East in an attempt to discover and bring back to this country insect enemies of noxious weeds, including halogeton and its plant relatives.

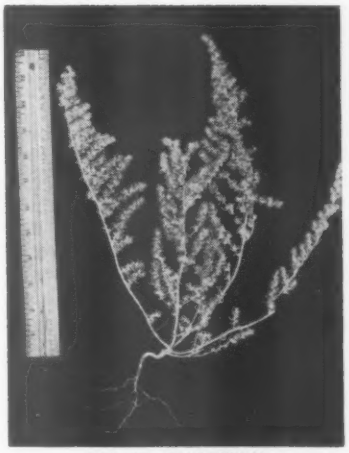
An Asiatic weed, halogeton poisons sheep and occasionally cattle. It gained a foothold in this country more than 20 years ago and has invaded all western States except Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico. The weed now infests more than nine million acres in the West. Because of halogeton, many sheep and cattle have died, much rangeland has been taken out of grazing, and land prices have dropped in some areas.

When a foreign plant or insect pest invades this country, scientists always consider the possibility of controlling it by importing natural enemies from its native land. The species of halogeton found in our western States occurs only behind the Iron Curtain, but closely related species have been found elsewhere. In its native Asian habitat, the weed is not a particularly important range pest—possibly because some native disease, insect or other control factor is holding it down.

Even if a halogeton-destroying insect or disease is found, however, scientists would need to test it carefully for several years to be sure they could release it in this country without harm to domestic crop plants.

Halogeton is a "poor relation" of good range grasses. Although it basically is a poor competitor with them, the deep-rooted weed can grow where grasses cannot—where rainfall is as low as four inches a year, at altitudes up to 7,000 feet, and in soils too alkaline or acid for many other plants. It will grow on all types of soil except pure sand—even in gravel.

Preliminary field trials of herbicidal spraying by airplane of halogeton infested land were made last summer in Nevada and Idaho. More practical and extensive information on proper aerial treatment methods is needed, and additional cooperative tests are planned by the USDA and the BLM for this summer.



THIS IS HALOGETON

This killer now infests 9 million western acres.

MARKETING MARGINS WIDEN

The difference between what the farmer gets for U. S. Choice grade beef on the hoof and what the consumer pays for the meat fluctuated widely from 1949-55. And the spread has gradually widened; in 1955, it was about 5 cents per retail pound more than at the start of the period.

Livestock producers received about 62 percent of the consumer's dollar spent for beef in 1955, and marketing agencies the remainder. This compares with 65 percent for producers in 1954, and 63 percent in 1953.

Marketing margins for pork also have been widening during this period. This is shown by a comparison of the price per pound of pork at retail and the price of its equivalent weight of 1.82 pounds in the live animal. Marketing margins have increased at an annual rate of 0.8 cents per retail pound of pork since 1947, when they averaged 17.5 cents. Since 1947, marketing margins for pork have increased gradually to 23.7 cents a pound in 1955, a record high. The record low was 8.2 cents in 1933, a depression year.

—Marketing Activities

NATIONAL CONVENTION SPEECH

Wool Science and Wool Supremacy

by DR. GERALD LAXER
Director of Science and Technology,
The Wool Bureau, Inc.

Condensation of speech delivered at the 91st annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association, Fort Worth, Texas, January 25, 1956.

IN order for you to make wool growing a profit making proposition, you require some basic facts.

It is essential that you raise the type of sheep that will thrive in your area, and that your sheep produce wool in sufficient quantity per head of animal. Finally, you must be assured that wool is demanded on the market because of its particular desirable characteristics as a textile fiber.

Now let's go to the market which you are dependent upon for your livelihood. The wool fiber has to compete with other textile fibers in the mill and in the store and "win out" for you. So far it hasn't been doing badly. The reason for this is that you have almost learned to grow the type of wools best suited to the conditions in your own area and also because the manufacturer has learned how to produce wool fabrics in his mill.

The "know how", built up by wool growers and manufacturers, however, from years of doing is not enough today. Competition by other textile fibers is becoming keener every day and it is vitally important that you learn to improve your methods of production and that the manufacturer learns how to improve his techniques of wool processing so that costs are reduced.

Furthermore, because of some desirable performance properties of textile materials made from fibers other than wool, some wool fabrics are required to have certain performance characteristics, which they normally do not have, to meet competition in the consumer area. These unnatural properties can only be brought about by modification of the wool fiber.

Trainers and Advisors

How can we do all of these things which are necessary for us to keep winning in the textile races? Obviously, we cannot take steps without knowing our directions, and here is where the scientists and technologists act as our trainers and advisors.

They have learned much already, and the whole industry has benefited from their work. For your purpose, however, their work is still incomplete. I would like to give you an idea of what scientists and technologists have accomplished for your benefit and what remains to be done.

As I see it, research in our industry can be divided into four main categories:

(1) Production research whose aim is to increase the amount and quality of wool produced while decreasing production costs. This can be brought about by genetics, animal health, pasture improvement and pest eradication studies. As growers, this is no doubt the field of study you are most interested in.

(2) Processing research which has two fundamental aims. First, it is most important that we assess, on a quantitative basis, what qualities and characteristics of the wool fiber influence its performance in manufacture and in the properties of the final product. As growers you can benefit from results in this area because you can receive guidance with regard to the character of the wools you should grow for specific end-uses. Second objective in the field of processing research is to shorten and develop more efficient methods of processing wool fibers into fabrics without causing any reduction in the quality of these fabrics.

(3) Fiber and fabric modification studies with the objective of enhancing the usefulness of certain types of wool fabrics without altering their quality so that they meet specific end-use requirements of the consumer.

(4) Research dealing with the fundamental properties of the fibers themselves. The objective here is to obtain more complete information about how the wool fiber is put together and how the behavior of the fiber can be explained in terms of its structure.

I hope it is clear that there is really no clear-cut line of separation between the four fields of wool research just mentioned. Experience has shown us that discoveries in one area throw light on problems in the remaining areas.

Wool Manufacture Needs

You know that wool is bought and sold purely on the basis of what you and the buyer see and feel in the fleece and often what you and the buyer consider important has little direct relation to the needs of the wool manufacturer.

This picture, however, is not as muddled as it used to be for as a result of processing research work which is being carried out by the Textile Research Institute in Princeton, New Jersey, we have learned that fiber crimp is a most important characteristic.

In recent tests it was found that a wool lot with a high number of crimps per inch can be processed on the worsted system more efficiently than a lot with fewer crimps since, in the spinning operation, the number of times that yarns broke on the spinning frame was considerably less than in the case of the sample containing the low number of crimps per inch.

When fabrics were woven from the yarns of these two lots of wool, there were very distinct differences in the hand of the two fabrics.

You can see that as a result of this type of work it may be possible to produce wool fabrics with new characteristics and which will be highly appealing to the consumer. Manufacturers will, at the same time, learn how to process these wools properly so that their costs will be reduced. And you, as growers, will receive the guidance you require with regard to what fiber characteristics you should breed for in order to receive maximum return for your clip. It is my belief you have an important stake in such work and that every effort should be made to continue to support this sort of research effort.

Branding Fluids

While we're in the production area, let's turn to the problem of branding fluids. You have all been faced with the problem of non-scourable brands which cause loss to you and to the manufacturer. Tars and paints which do not come out when wool is scoured cause considerable damage.

A completely scourable branding fluid has been developed in Australia, and as soon as it is used universally throughout Australia, it is expected that a loss amounting to something like four million dollars a year will be eliminated. I hope that you will adopt the Australian fluid, or something similar to solve the problem in this country in the near future.

I would like to finish up by speaking about the last field of research I mentioned, namely, the area of fiber and fabric modification. It should be obvious to you how important the fundamental fiber studies are to this field, for it is through the understanding of wool's chemical and physical nature that we are able to make progress here.

I think you will be happy to know

that a process has been developed in England for producing permanent pleats in wool skirts and permanent creases in wool trousers. The process involves the use of chemicals which split strained disulphide bonds which occur when pleats are shaped. This process is not yet available in our country, but we are looking forward to its use here in the near future.

The felting property of wool is very desirable for producing wool fabrics, but we all know that this property is not appreciated by the housewife who washes wool sweaters and wool socks. We know that it is the scales of wool which are responsible for this preferential slippage or felting. And it should not be surprising to you that a number of processes have been developed over the years for making wool shrink-resistant.

Modified Surface Structure

These processes modify the surface structure of the wool fibers. I understand that nearly 100 patents have been registered on this subject and while many of the processes work effectively, such as chlorination, we are still looking for the one that will do the job without upsetting the delicate balance of properties that the wool fibers possess.

Chlorination sharply reduces the ability of wool to felt, but at the same time it increases the roughness of the fiber and tends to destroy the natural water repellency of wool.

Our problems in the field of fiber and fabric modification are far from being over, for we are a long way from the production of ideally modified wools to suit every end use. In this modern world we are looking for wools which will resist laundering conditions which tend to weaken or yellow the fibers. Such problems and others arise everyday and as a result limit wool's usefulness.

I think now I have given you the broad aspects of our problem and the kind of thing that we have to do to keep wool ahead in the race of textile fibers. In wool, we have a fiber which is unmatched in versatility and there should be no lack of confidence on your part in the future of this fiber but you should be aware that we must produce a whole range of wool types and modified wools to meet the competition offered by the other textile fibers.

Clearly, when we modify wool we must be sure we do not lose any of the unique properties already possessed by the fibers or upset the nice balance of properties for which wool is notable. Continued research will give these wools to us and it is my belief that wool's supremacy in the future is dependent to a large measure upon wool science.

This talk should certainly make you feel that "Nothing Measures Up to Wool" and that we must continue our research efforts to be sure that this well-known phrase does not become out of date.

U. S. Olympic Team To Wear All-Wool

A $120,000 contribution of fabrics and tailored apparel by the Nation's textile and clothing industries will provide complete wardrobes for the 525 men and women who will represent the United States at the XVI Olympiad in Australia during November and December.

The wardrobes, first ever presented to U. S. Olympic athletes through large-scale industry cooperation, will include all-wool parade uniforms, wool travel uniforms, wool leisure wear and sleepwear. Approximately 26 items of apparel in all will be issued before departure from the West Coast to each of the 450 men and 75 women participating in the Games.

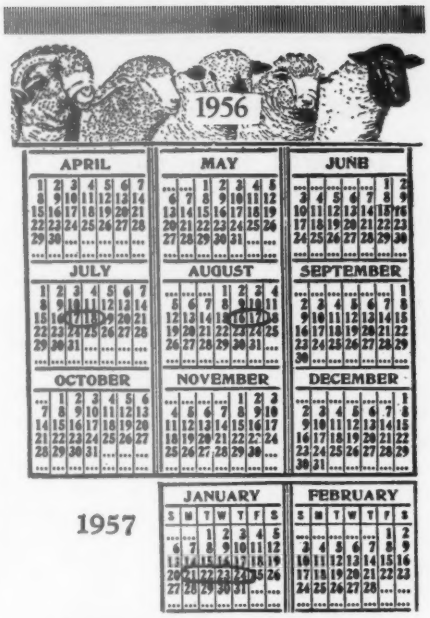
Almost 7,000 yards of lightweight all-wool fabric have been contributed by 10 of the Nation's top-ranking mills as the basis for the wardrobes. Thirty-six leading manufacturers produced and donated the finished apparel.

Predominant colors in the wardrobes of both men and women are navy blue and eggshell white, with red appearing as trim and decoration in some items of apparel.

More than 40 key representatives of the Nation's textile and apparel industries were honored in late March for their cooperative effort which will make these wardrobes for U. S. Olympic athletes possible.

The occasion was a special luncheon in the Hotel Biltmore honoring mills and manufacturing firms which are equipping the athletes who will represent the U. S. in Melbourne. The luncheon was sponsored by The Wool Bureau in behalf of the United States Olympic Committee.

Speakers at the luncheon were Max F. Schmitt, president of The Wool Bureau, J. Lyman Bingham, executive director of the United States Olympic Committee, and H. Jamison Swarts, chairman of the Olympic Supplies and Equipment Committee.



SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

National Association Events

July 17-18: Meetings of NWGA Executive Committee and AWC Council of Directors, Helena, Montana.
AUGUST 16-17: NATIONAL RAM SALE, OGDEN, UTAH.
January 21-24, 1957: 92nd annual meeting, NWGA, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Conventions and Meetings

June 14-15: California Wool Growers' Convention, Davis, California.
July 10: Arizona Wool Growers' Convention, Flagstaff, Arizona.
July 24-26: Colorado Wool Growers' Convention, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
November 9-10: Oregon Wool Growers' Convention, Portland, Oregon.
November 10: California Association's Board of Directors' Meeting, San Francisco.
November 11-13: Idaho Wool Growers' Convention, Pocatello, Idaho.
November 14-16: National Lamb Feeders' Convention, St. Joseph, Missouri.
November 23-24: Western South Dakota Sheep Growers' Convention, Belle Fourche, South Dakota.
November 27-29: Wyoming Wool Growers' Convention, Buffalo, Wyoming.
December 3-5: Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Convention, San Angelo, Texas.
JANUARY 21-24, 1957: NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' CONVENTION, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

Sales

August 1: Idaho State Ram Sale, Filer, Idaho.
August 2-3: New Mexico Ram Sale, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
AUGUST 16-17: NATIONAL RAM SALE, OGDEN, UTAH.
September 13: Salt Lake Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
September 15: Idaho Range Ram Sale, Pocatello, Idaho.
September 18-19: Wyoming Ram Sale, Casper, Wyoming.
September 20: Montana Ram Sale, Miles City, Montana.
September 25: Vernal Ram Sale, Vernal, Utah.
September 26: Idaho Purebred Breeders' Sale, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
October 11: Utah State Ram Sale, Spanish Fork, Utah.

Shows

June 6-7: Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, Salt Lake City, Utah.
September 6-8: Utah State Suffolk Sheep Show, Nephi, Utah.
October 20-27: Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Oregon.
October 20-27: American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City, Missouri.
October 26-27: Columbia Sheep Show and Sale, Kenton, Ohio.
November 2-11: Grand National Livestock Exposition, Cow Palace, San Francisco.
November 16-21: Golden Spike Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.
January 11-19, 1957: National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado.

From State Presidents

Poor Lamb Distribution Concerns Producers

I have been watching with great interest the interchange of thoughts and feelings between Lloyd Avilla and Garland Russell which have appeared in the California Wool Growers' Livestock News.

We have had somewhat the same experiences here in the Northwest that Lloyd complains of in California, that is the inability of the distribution system to supply the retail outlet with the type and quality of lamb he desires. I do not know that all of the fault lies with the packing concerns. Perhaps some of it lies with the retail outlets in their manner of ordering. There was one store in Yakima which had its order for choice lambs substituted with good lambs, ordered out of Portland, and this at a time when there were 15,000 choice lambs within 30 miles that were begging for a market, and which Portland would not buy. I do not know myself, what the exact answer is but I do know, from the producer's standpoint, that there must be one.

There has been in the last week, two inadvertent bits of advertising in national publications. One appeared in the Sunday Supplement of "This Week," in an article written by Clementine Paddleford, explaining the wonderful food served aboard the USS Leyte, in which she says "there are as many tastes as there are tongues and tastes vary on different ships, but in general on the Leyte all the men want meat, any meat, except lamb."

The second bit of advertising appeared on the cover of the April 7th issue of the Saturday Evening Post, in the form of an on-the-window ad of a supermarket, advertising lamb at 49 cents.

The first example demonstrates how poorly up to now we have sold our product to the consuming public and have it prepared properly for the largest single consuming group of food in the Nation, namely the armed forces. The second also points up a problem and that is the price to the consumer does not vary in relationship to the price received by the growers.

Better distribution, proper pricing and better education of the using public, to me, are three of the most important factors upon which we must work if we are to make the lamb industry pay.

—George K. Hislop
April 19, 1956

Modern (?) Men's Wear=More Wool Consumption

BIG NEWS FOR THE NATION'S GOLFERS is the return of knickers to the sports scene after 20 years' absence. Once the favored attire of all golfers, they're seen (left) as worn by Bobby Jones in 1930 when he won the British Open Golf Championship for the third time. The style-setting 1956 version (right), to be seen on the fairways—and in the "roughs"—across the Nation, is made from a much lighter-weight all-wool shetland fabric, and is greatly slimmed down to put more emphasis on freedom of action.

Colorado Association Names New Secretary

ROBERT Field, 25, of Steamboat Springs, Colorado has been named executive secretary of the Colorado Wool Growers Association. The new secretary will take over his position on June 1. He succeeds Dale Gillan who resigned on April 15 to take a position with the Garden National Bank, Garden City, Kansas.

Field is presently the assistant county agricultural agent of Colorado's Routt County. He was born in Montrose, Colorado, where he lived on a farm and ranch and attended school. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Colorado A & M College in 1953.

PARITY & AVERAGE PRICES MARCH 15, 1956

	Parity	Average Price
Wool	60.3	39.9 (1)
Lamb	$23.40	$18.10 (2)

(1) 66 percent of parity
(2) 77 percent of parity

GET YOUR GAS TAX REFUND

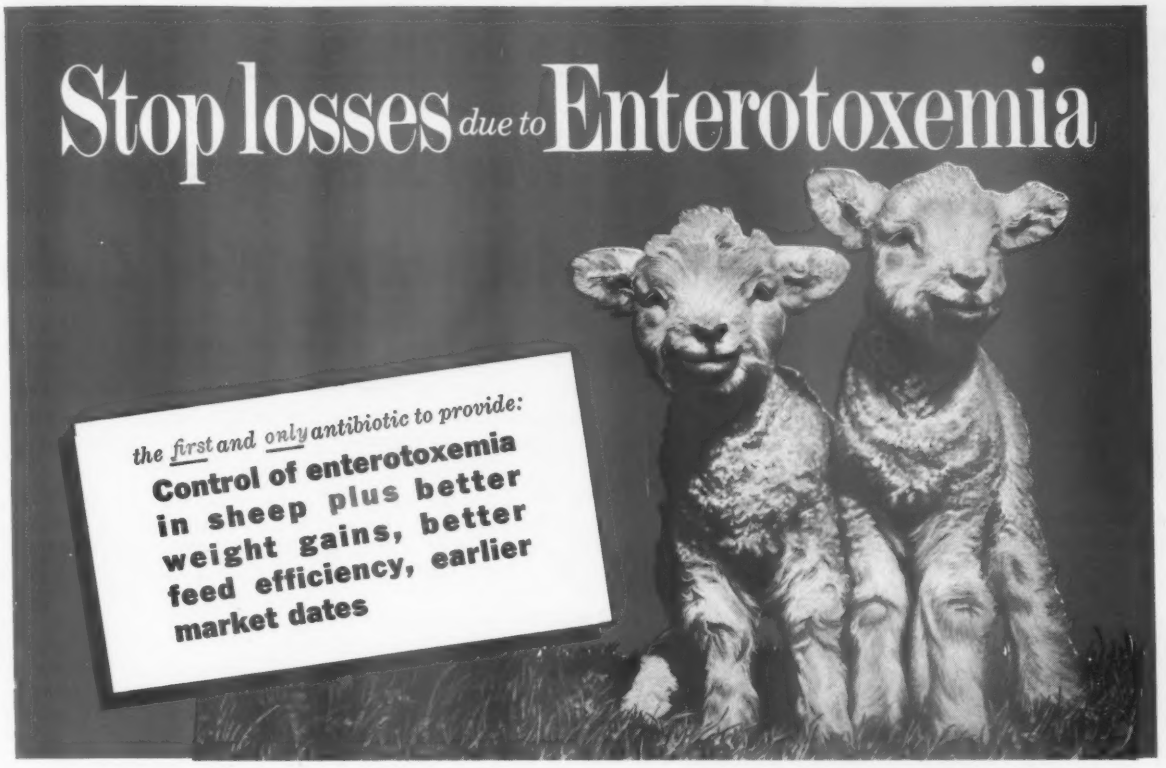
Farmers are now relieved from excise taxes on gasoline and special fuels used on the farm for farming purposes. The measure granting this relief (H.R. 8780) became law (P.L. 466) with the President's signature on April 2.

The law provides for a refund of this tax of 2 cents a gallon. The first refund payments will be made after June 30. They cover the tax on gasoline bought and used during the first six months of 1956. After this the refunds will cover one-year periods from July 1 to June 30.

Claims for the tax must be filed after June 30 and before October 1, with the U. S. District Director of Internal Revenue in each farmer's district. Proper forms will be available at Internal Revenue Offices, county agricultural agents and many banks and post offices.

The term "farm" under the Act includes "stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, furbearing animals, and truck farms, plantations, ranches, nurseries, ranges, greenhouses or other similar structures used primarily for the raising of agricultural or horticultural commodities, and orchards."

Stop losses *due to* Enterotoxemia



the first and only antibiotic to provide:
Control of enterotoxemia in sheep plus better weight gains, better feed efficiency, earlier market dates

Feed good rations containing the world's greatest disease-fighter:

AUREOMYCIN®

CHLORTETRACYCLINE

NOW . . . you can let your sheep *eat all they want* and not worry about over-eating disease!

Field trials have definitely proved that the *right* amount of AUREOMYCIN in the ration stops losses from enterotoxemia.

Look at the table below. Note the results of a typical field trial *with* and *without* AUREOMYCIN. In a group of 200 lambs fed AUREOMYCIN, not a single lamb died of enterotoxemia.

Add this newest advantage of AUREOMYCIN to all the others this great antibiotic gives you: Fewer sickness days, better weight gains, fewer "tail-enders", improved feed efficiency, earlier market dates. You can see why it pays to feed AUREOMYCIN from start to finish.

Where to get AUREOMYCIN. AUREOMYCIN Chlortetracycline is supplied to feed manufacturers and feed suppliers in the form of AUROFAC® Animal Feed products. Two new AUROFAC products—AUROFAC-A and AUROFAC-A Crumbles—are especially adapted to sheep feeding. Write for your free copy of a booklet called "AUREOMYCIN for Sheep Feeding."

AUREOMYCIN in Sheep Feeds for the Control of Enterotoxemia 49-DAY TRIAL

	WITHOUT AUREOMYCIN	WITH AUREOMYCIN*
Number of sheep	199	200
Death losses, enterotoxemia	12	0

*Fed at the rate of 30-35 milligrams per lamb per day.

CYANAMID

AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY | ANIMAL FEED DEPARTMENT | 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

A flax cutter at work on a company plantation at Rangiora, New Zealand.

A workman feeding green flax into the stripper. The resulting fiber can be seen at the bottom right hand corner of the picture.

Phormium (New Zealand Flax) rolls of cloth prior to being "cropped."

IT'S IN THE BAG!

Wool Sack Signifies Authority in New Zealand

by JOSEPH JONES

(Department of English, the University of Texas; 1953 Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at the University Colleges of Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand)

IN the British Parliament, the wool-sack is the Lord Chancellor's seat in the House of Lords—or, by extension, his office. And in a certain sense, the wool-sack is the symbol of authority in New Zealand, for it signifies the end-product of the country's primary industry, sheep. The farmer who bestrides the wool-sack is a kind of economic Lord Chancellor; New Zealand depends upon him for her economic health, and much of the country's activity is geared in one way or another to his demands. For this reason alone, the wool-sack is an interesting object to contemplate, but even apart from what it stands for it is worth examining.

Seen as it comes from the wool-press or as it is being trucked to the wool-stores (warehouses), the wool-sack forms a neat rectangular bundle of bright tan fabric with a texture resembling a little that of new burlap but coarser and stronger. It is a little difficult to imagine that this sturdy fabric comes out of the same soil that nourished the flocks whose wool it now enfolds, but such is the case.

The native plant from which the wool-sack is made is locally called flax, or not infrequently by its botanical name, **Phormium tenax.** This large, handsome plant grows extensively both in swamps and in well-watered places on the hillsides. Its leaves are long and slender—reed-like—and of a dark glossy green, forming a dense cluster from which rises a spike of reddish flowers. It would probably remind Southwesterners of the yucca, and is in fact a member of the yucca family—along with the cabbage-tree or cabbage-palm, the sword-like leaves of which are borne on a trunk rising to heights of 15 feet or more. **Phormium tenax** stays close to the ground and waves its long leaves in the wind—leaves that grow to be six or eight feet in length.

The same material which now goes to make the wool-sack was for hundreds of years a very important substance to the New Zealand aborigines, the Maoris. They called it "harakeke" or, in its dressed form ready for weaving, "muka." The "muka" fiber was prepared by scraping with mussel shells, while the unscraped leaves were woven into patterned floor-mats and beautiful baskets. The leaves could also be dried and curled to form cylinders, which were scraped at regular distances so as to provide portions that would take dye; then the separate strands thus formed were combined into the "piupiu," a kilt-like garment giving somewhat the effect of a grass-skirt but worn on the outside of other garments in such ceremonial dances as the graceful "poi" ("poi" means "ball," attached to a short or long string) performed by the women or the fierce "haka" performed by the men.

Thus the distant cousin of one of our familiar desert plants was—and to a lesser degree still is—an article of great value to the Maori. During the tragic period of Maori history immediately after the "pakeha" (stranger or foreigner) had introduced the musket and the tribes were slaughtering each

other—approximately 1810 to 1830—there was a lucrative trade in New Zealand flax; enormous amounts of prepared fiber were demanded and received as payment for a single gun as the desperate Maoris—who without muskets were at the mercy of their neighbors—slaved to win their chance for survival by producing tons of "muka."

Today, the flax is systematically cultivated and harvested, coming to maturity in four years. After cutting, it is stripped and the resulting fiber further processed and finally woven into long rolls of coarse cloth for bagging. Near Foxton, on North Island, where the principal flax-mill in New Zealand is located, one can see extensive drying-fences for flax—posts strung with smooth wire, over which the long strands are hung. In 1939, the government reinstated the flax industry, which had its beginning well back in the nineteenth century but which later had been permitted to lag behind the demands it was potentially capable of meeting. The annual production is at present about 4500 tons, of which 2000 goes for wool-sacks, another thousand for cord and matting, and the remainder for fibrous plaster, furniture padding, and miscellaneous uses. Yields are increased by plant selection and crossing.

Like the flax from which the sack is made, New Zealand's life is firmly rooted in the soil. Few other native plants have proved to be quite so versatile, so readily adaptable to necessities in the lives of primitive and civilized men alike, as **Phormium tenax.**

Branding wool bales after shearing. This Merino fleece is the finest wool produced in New Zealand.

At work on the wool press at a New Zealand shearing shed. Note the roof which was once the old-fashioned wool shingles, is now corrugated iron.

Progress in Off-Color Wool Studies Reported

PROGRESS is being made on the problem of off-color wools at USDA's Western Utilization Research Branch at Albany, California.

"This problem is important because of the demand for pastel fabrics," Dr. H. P. Lundgren stated in a recent report of the highlights of the 1955 International Wool Textile Research Conference in Australia. "The problem of off-color has at least two facets: persistence of color even in the thoroughly scoured new wool and gradual yellowing and darkening of light wool fabrics under conditions of normal use. The yellow colors are in general not removable by washing, and are even difficult to remove by bleaching.

"Significant findings have been made in the understanding of the yellowing of wool promoted by wool impurities. A constituent of wool suint, urocanic acid, has been isolated in pure form and has proved to be one of the factors responsible for the yellowing of unscoured wool at moderately elevated temperatures in the presence of moisture.

"When small amounts of this acid are placed on clean white wool, the wool is found to undergo more rapid yellowing at the site of application. Significantly, urocanic acid is a constituent of human perspiration, and the problem of wool fabric yellowing promoted by perspiration is generally recognized. The mechanism of the yellowing action promoted by urocanic acid is being studied in an effort to discover promising avenues of approach toward practical means for minimizing or inhibiting such yellowing."

Results of investigation on yellowing promoted by exposure to short-wave light were also reported. This yellowing is readily produced by germicidal lamps emitting 90 percent of their radiant energy in the ultraviolet (at 2500 A).

Studies of the photochemical yellowing process in wool have revealed that the reaction leading to yellowing can be intercepted and inhibited if certain types of chemical compound are added to the wool. The agents which have been found effective are trialkyl phosphates and tetra-alkyl titanates.

Experiments have revealed that their protective action is due to the alkoxy radicals liberated from these compounds by the action of light. These alkoxy radicals are believed to intercept the photochemical activation of some wool constituent which is the first step in the yellowing reaction. This protective action is similar to the action of anti-knock compounds which prevent pre-ignition of gasoline motor fuels.

Work is proceeding in order to gain further insight into the photochemical yellowing process. Although the phosphate and titanate compounds do not appear economically feasible for commercial application, the study of these compounds establishes general principles and thus assists in the search for a practical modification of wool that will guarantee improved stability of wool towards light.

"Here Comes the Wind," A Portrayal of Ranching

A vivid portrayal of sheep ranching, with its serene joys and piercing heartaches, is given in C. J. Saterlie's "Here Comes the Wind."

This is the story of what happened to Author Saterlie when he decided to reclaim his father's mortgaged and run-down ranch on Frenchy Creek, about 25 miles northwest of Choteau, Montana.

Penniless, with only a few friends to help, he and his wife re-fenced, re-corraled, re-roofed. They managed to buy 800 sheep, three milk cows, and some pigs, and in a sub-zero Montana blizzard, they set about stock ranching in earnest.

There were lean years and fat sheep, fat years and lean sheep. This diary-like account of Mr. Saterlie's experiences is contagiously exciting and will hold your interest, despite the dogged efforts of the Montana winds to blow both you and Mr. Saterlie's ranch away.

"Here Comes the Wind," Comet Press Books, 11 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y. $3

THERE'S NO ENTRY FEE

Save Those Good Fleeces

for the 4th National Wool Show

The fourth annual National Wool Show will be held in the Coliseum, Ogden, Utah, August 15, 16 and 17, as an added feature of the National Ram Sale. Entries in the show are open to all commercial and purebred sheep raisers as well as agricultural colleges. Judging will take place on August 16th and awards will be presented at the Ram Sale that day.

Manager of the show is Russell R. Keetch, Sheep and Wool Specialist, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah. Show judges will be announced soon. Following are rules and general information for the show:

1955 GRAND CHAMPION

Wynn S. Hansen, left, displays his Grand Champion Columbia fleece to Colonel E. O. Walter.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

This is a show to encourage the production of better wool, to promote better handling and preparation for market, and to educate the growers to the system of grading.

The following shall apply to fleeces in the show: (a) Each fleece must have been shorn in 1956; (b) Each fleece shall represent not more than 12 months' growth, except in the case of yearling fleeces, when 16 months' growth will be allowed; (c) In case of controversy concerning the number of months' growth of any fleece, the acknowledged rate of monthly growth of wool from different breeds and types of sheep shall be used as a guide by the judges; (d) No wether fleeces shall be included.

If judges determine that any fleece is in the wrong class, they have authority to place the fleece in its proper class.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Two to each class and no fleece can compete in more than one class, except for champion or special prizes.

PREPARATION OF FLEECES

Fleeces should be properly tied with paper fleece twine and wrapped with paper or cloth to prevent their becoming soiled. A paper carton is excellent for shipping.

The wool will be judged on the following points:

1. Quality of fineness (in the breed classification only; that is the fineness must be typical of the breed represented).
2. Uniformity of fineness and staple length among the various parts of the fleece.
3. Length and strength of staple.
4. Estimated clean weight.
5. Condition.
6. Character, including crimp, color, softness, and general attractiveness.

HOW TO SHIP FLEECES TO THE SHOW

Fleeces may be shipped express prepaid, addressed to Livestock Show Coliseum, Ogden, Utah, or they may be brought in by the exhibitor. In either case, fleeces must arrive at the Coliseum not later than 2 p.m., Tuesday, August 14, 1956.

Arrangements should be made by exhibitors to pick up their fleeces at the close of the show the afternoon of August 17th. All fleeces left on the grounds after the show will be returned to the exhibitor express collect unless the exhibitor gives the management permission to sell the fleece and remit.

CLASSES IN 1956 WOOL SHOW

Division I. Purebred Classes

(R. denotes ram fleece; E. denotes ewe fleece)

Class No.			
1.	Rambouillet	R.	In each of these classes, First prize $5.00; Second prize $2.50; Third and Fourth, ribbon awards.
2.	Rambouillet	E.	
3.	Corriedale	R.	
4.	Corriedale	E.	
5.	Columbia	R.	
6.	Columbia	E.	
7.	Panama	R.	
8.	Panama	E.	
9.	Targhee	R.	
10.	Targhee	E.	
11.	Other Breeds	R.	
12.	Other Breeds	E.	

Division II. Market Classes (Range)

(Ewe fleeces only)

13.	64's to 80's (Fine)	In each of these classes, First prize $5.00; Second prize $3.00; Third and Fourth, ribbon awards.
14.	60's (Half-blood)	
15.	56-58's (⅜ blood)	
16.	48-50's (¼ blood)	

Division III. Market Classes (Farm)

(Ewe fleeces only)

17.	64's to 80's (Fine)	In each of these classes, First prize $5.00; Second prize $3.00; Third and Fourth, ribbon awards.
18.	60's (Half-blood)	
19.	56-58's (⅜ blood)	
20.	48-50's (¼ blood)	

TROPHY AWARDS

In addition to cash and ribbon awards named above, the following six trophies will be given: Grand Champion and Reserve Champion fleeces of the show; Best Rambouillet, Columbia, Panama, and Targhee fleeces.

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. Show fleeces are usually selected from the shearing floor. Usually you can make a better comparison when several shorn fleeces are saved. Then you can weigh and test all possible entries toward your final selection. Perhaps your County Agricultural Agent will give you assistance in selection of entries.

II. **Factors to consider in selection:**
   1. **Length of staple:** These are the classifications: fine-2½ inches; ½ blood-3 inches; and ⅜ blood-3½ inches. Additional length is desirable.
   2. **Fleece weight:** 11 pounds for ewe lambs, 12 pounds for mature ewes and 16 pounds for rams.
   3. **Select clean fleeces.**
   4. **Consider fiber strength**—(indicated by hand-testing).
   5. **Freedom from defects,** such as excessive hairiness, kemp, burrs, etc.
   6. **Desirable processing qualities,** uniformity in length and fineness, boldness and evenness of crimp, color, softness, freedom from second cuts, and general attractiveness.

III. Care must be taken to roll the fleece into a neat bundle with the flesh side out. The show fleeces should be loosely rolled in a careful manner, using two strings if necessary to make an attractive unit.

IV. Box or wrap show fleece carefully and be sure to label, indicating sex and age, months of fleece growth, name and address of grower. Fleeces from purebred animals should be labeled as to breed. Other fleeces, labeled Market Class (Range) or Market Class (Farm).

Clip Out This Entry Blank

FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL WOOL SHOW ENTRY

To be held at Livestock Show Coliseum, Ogden Stock Yards, August 15, 16, 17, 1956.

I desire to enter.....fleeces of wool shorn in 1956 in the fourth annual National Wool Show. Please send me shipping instructions and instructions on labeling.

Name.....

Address.....

Mail this blank to: National Wool Growers Association, 414 Crandall Building, Salt Lake City 1, Utah.

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Giving half a million eating establishments the kind of products and services they want and need is a highly specialized business. And Swift & Company is organized and equipped to handle that job.

Several hundred Swift salesmen work full time to build a broader market for meat in the "eating out" industry; more than 3,000 others spend part of their time calling on the restaurant and hotel trade. Almost 300 Swift sales units in cities from coast to coast are equipped to provide the special cuts and services this trade demands.

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That kind of service has helped boost restaurant sales to more than four times the volume in 1939. As the "eating out" business continues to grow, Swift will be working even harder to serve this outlet for meat . . . to broaden the market for your livestock.

Tom Glaze

SWIFT & COMPANY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
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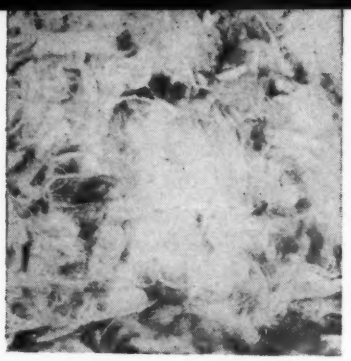

REPORT: April Wool Market

CCC Prices Hold Steady; Consumption Increases

THERE'S one hopeful ray in the present foggy wool market situation—prices are being held steady. Part of this stability at least may be attributed to the Commodity Credit Corporation in not lowering its upset prices on the main grades of wool.

Some market observers say that the increased volume of minor and off-grade wools in recent sales indicates that CCC is being a little more lenient on them. The CCC has cleaned up 18 of its small lots of wool. Since the beginning of its competitive bid selling program, it has sold a total of 28,880,000 pounds of wool. Details of recent sales are given later in this article.

Activity in producing areas has been fairly brisk but most of the wools purchased have gone direct to processors or mills. Little of it has been purchased on a speculative basis, that is, for resale in the future. Accelerated activity in the West may appear when shearing becomes more general. In the fleece wool or farm flock states, the movement of new wools has been steady.

One favorable factor in the outlook is in the increased consumption of apparel wools during the first two months of this year, coupled with the fact that the gain is in the use of wool on the worsted system. In other words, woolen consumption has not been lowered, but that for worsteds has been stepped up.

The Weekly Wool Trade Report of the Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange says, "Average monthly consumption on the woolen system in 1955 amounted to 12.9 million clean pounds, exactly the same as for the first two months of 1956, while the worsted system consumption has averaged 13.5 million clean pounds in 1956, as compared to 11.7 million clean pounds per month in 1955. If this gain can be maintained, total consumption would gain approximately 26 million clean pounds this year."

The increased use of worsteds, The Wool Bureau asserts, "presages an increase in the production of 100 percent wool and high-wool-content fabrics." This statement is based on the fact that fabrics of woolen construction lend themselves more readily to blending than worsteds.

On the other side, the closing of more mills is striking a discouraging note. A most recent example of this is the announcement of Armour and Company that it was liquidating Francis Willey and Company, believed to be the oldest wool topmaking firm in the U. S. Willey and Company is the topmaking division of Winslow Brothers and Smith, which is controlled by Armours.

FOREIGN MARKETS

"The Australian wool markets," the Commercial Bulletin on April 21 stated, "were moving further away from buyers here as values at the auctions this week were again advancing. Brokers stated that current offerings were well above the buying range of consumers in this market, and consequently were not able to stimulate interest in those wools." The Continent, Great Britain and Japan are providing the competition that is keeping those markets in the sellers' favor.

Current prices in South African markets were also said to be well above our market on comparable wools. Conditions in Uruguay and Argentina, it is reported, make trading there very difficult. If this foreign market situation continues, it should turn domestic buyers more definitely toward domestic wools, which would be another factor in moving domestic prices upward.

CCC SALES

During the last week of March the Commodity Credit Corporation sold about 745,000 pounds of wool, bringing the total sales volume of that month up to about two million pounds. Sales the last week included 22,595 pounds of fine, staple and good French graded territory at $1.30; 28,012 of fine, staple and good French graded territory at $1.2675; 19,973 pounds of three-eighths, short French and clothing at 85 to 96 cents and 14,189 pounds of low quarter-blood at 97 cents. Some 186,805 pounds of average to short fall Texas wool in original bags were sold at $1.005 to $1.0075.

During the month of April a total of about 1,967,000 pounds was sold. About 305,000 pounds were sold the first week. In the graded territory description, 71,901 pounds of fine, short French and clothing wools sold at $1.16 to $1.17 and 129,792 pounds of three-eighths blood, short French and clothing at 85 to 91 cents.

On April 12, sales of 163,00 pounds were announced. Included were these graded territory wools: 24,715 pounds of fine staple and good French at $1.30; 4,818 pounds of half-blood, average and good French at $1.102; 5,089 pounds, half-blood, short French and clothing at $1.002; and 57,431 pounds of quarter-blood staple and good French 48/50's at $1.06.

Approximately 459,000 pounds were sold the third week, including 18,947 pounds of half-blood, short French and clothing at $1.002; and 7,662 pounds of low quarter-blood at 90 cents. Some original bag Texas wools were also included: 33,379 pounds of best length 8-months' at $1.155 and 239,106 pounds of the best length fall wool at $1.061 to $1.07125.

The last week of April CCC sold approximately 1,040,000 pounds of wool, at unchanged prices. Original bag Texas wools made up the largest volume. Some 252,674 pounds of average to short, 8-months' sold in a range of $1.072 to $1.102 and 542, 215 pounds of best length fall wool brought $1.062 to $1.092. In graded territory wools, 82,505 pounds of average to good French half-blood sold at $1.15 to $1.20; 19,842 pounds of short French and clothing half-blood sold at $1.10 to $1.11 and 50,000 pounds of staple and good French (48/50s) quarter-blood made $1.06. Low quarter-blood (14,839 pounds) sold at 93 cents and common and braid at 85 cents.

The sales listed are the only ones believed to be of interest to western producers.

Sales in Producing Areas

Wool transactions in western producing areas are shown by States, as gathered from various sources:

ARIZONA:

No reports have come in or been noted in market reports. However considerable sales were covered in last month's issue.

CALIFORNIA:

In Sacramento Valley 3,800 fleeces of 12-months' wool of the 1956 clip sold at 51½ to 52 cents and several thousand fleeces at 45 to 51 cents.

Wools were about cleaned up in the San Joaquin Valley during the month. Around 3,400 fleeces sold in the Fresno area at 44½ cents; 1,200 fleeces of heavy shrinking yearling wool brought 32 cents. Other sales were reported at 42 to 46 cents, 46½, 47, 47½ and 50½ cents.

Early in the month 26,600 fleeces sold in the Bakersfield section at 34 to 41¼ cents. Some 4,000 fleeces of 12-months' wool brought 38½ cents.

COLORADO:

Late in the month two or three mixed clips were reported sold on the West Slope at 42 to 46 cents. Earlier, recently shorn lamb's wool sold in northern Colorado at 30 to 40 cents and a few lots of fine wool went at 40 to 44 cents, one carload of light shrinking, fine wool bringing 45 cents.

IDAHO:

Three sales were reported as made during the last week of March at 38, 39 and 43 cents. The Blaine County wool pool was sold at 43 cents. Later, some 3,000 fleeces were sold to the Pendleton Mills at 46½ cents. A trade paper also reported the sale of the Lemhi pool at Salmon to a wool dealer at 44¼ cents, or about $1.05 clean, landed Boston. The pool included about 100,000 pounds of mixed wool, running mostly quarter and three-eighths blood.

MONTANA:

Quite a little activity in wool was reported from Montana. Here are some of the sales:

400 fleeces in the Geyser area, 300 fleeces at Harlem, 500 fleeces at Conrad and 600 fleeces in the Chinook area at 40 cents.

500 fleeces in the Havre area at 42 cents.

3,000 fleeces at Harlowton and 300 fleeces in the Sweetgrass Hills area at 45 cents.

2,400 fleeces at Sweetgrass Hills at 47 to 48 cents.

2,200 fleeces in the Whitlash area at 50 cents.

In the Deer Lodge area 4,000 fleeces were reported as sold at $1.28 clean, landed Boston, less 2 cents per pound commission—grease basis. Also 5,000 fleeces of unshorn wool in the Helena area were contracted at $1.27 clean, landed Boston.

NEVADA:

A few hundred fleeces of 12-months' 1956 wool were sold at Elko at 41 to 46 cents.

NEW MEXICO:

The bulk of the early shorn New Mexico wools are said to be sold. Some 300,000 pounds were sold in a price range of 32½ to 48⅜ cents, the bulk bringing 40 to 44 cents. Some 200,000 pounds ranged in price from 35½ to 40¼ cents and 78,000 pounds brought 49⅜ to 50⅝ cents. Original bag fine New Mexico wools at 40 to 45 cents were estimated to have a clean, landed Boston price of around $1.25.

OREGON:

Oregon mills are said to be competing for the new wool clip of that State and a few lots near Fossil were sold at 43 to 46 cents.

J. B. Stanfield, Inc., at Portland wrote early in the month that they had sold all of their consigned wools from the 1955 clip, mostly during February and March at the following clean prices: Good French and staple fine $1.30, average to short $1.22, half-blood from $1.21 to $1.29, three-eighths at $1.13, quarter-blood at $1.07 to $1.08, medium clothing at $1.13 to $1.20 scoured, and crutchings at 97 cents.

The J. M. Coon Wool Company also reported these sales during March:

4,000 pounds of graded half-blood, 45 cents.

2,300 pounds of graded ⅜'s at 45 cents.

860 pounds of graded quarter-blood at 45 cents, and 4,700 pounds of graded fine and half-blood at 44 cents.

12,000 pounds original bag yearling at 43 cents.

They also sold 23,000 pounds of original bag fine and 15,000 pounds of graded fine at $1.24 clean basis; 3,747 pounds of 58's, plus, at $1.15 and 2,000 pounds of scoured quarter-blood at $1.

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Hafner Wool Company, Inc., Newell, reports the sale of five cars of original bag, early shorn Dakota wool, including 600 fleeces of 9-months', short staple at 47 cents, net to the growers; 3,000 fleeces of 12-months' at 48 cents; 3,000 fleeces at 49 cents; 6,000 fleeces at 50 cents and 1,000 fleeces at 50½ cents, net to the growers. All of these were light shrinking wools of varying grades, figured to have a $1.16 clean basis, delivered Boston.

At Belle Fourche some 560 fleeces were consigned at 45 cents.

In eastern South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, prices to the grower seem to

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DOMESTIC WOOL QUOTATIONS ON THE OPEN MARKET AT BOSTON

Not Including C.C.C. Sales Prices

Week Ending April 20, 1956

	CLEAN BASIS PRICES	%	GREASE EQUIVALENTS BASED UPON ARBITRARY SHRINKAGE PERCENTAGES (3)	%		%	
GRADED TERRITORY WOOLS (1)							
Fine:							
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple...	$1.26—1.30	56	$ .55— .57	59	$ .52— .53	64	$ .45— .47
*Ave. & Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.20—1.25	55	.54— .56	60	.48— .50	65	.42— .44
*Sh. Fr. Comb. & Clothing....	1.10—1.15	56	.49— .51	61	.43— .45	66	.38— .39
One-half Blood:							
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple...	1.18—1.22	51	.58— .60	54	.54— .56	57	.51— .52
*Ave. to Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.05—1.10	52	.50— .53	55	.47— .50	58	.44— .46
Three-eighths Blood:							
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple...	1.06—1.10	48	.55— .57	51	.52— .54	54	.49— .51
*Ave. French Combing.....	1.00—1.05	49	.51— .54	52	.48— .50	55	.45— .47
One-quarter Blood:							
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple...	1.02—1.06	46	.55— .57	48	.53— .55	50	.51— .53
*Ave. French Combing.....	.95—1.00	47	.50— .53	49	.49— .51	51	.47— .49
*Low Quarter Blood.....	.95—1.00	41	.56— .59	43	.54— .57	45	.52— .55
*Common & Braid.....	.90— .95	40	.54— .57	42	.52— .55	44	.51— .53
ORIGINAL BAG TERRITORY WOOLS (1)							
Fine:							
Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple...	1.25—1.30	57	.54— .56	59	.51— .53	61	.49— .51
*Ave. & Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.20—1.25	59	.49— .51	61	.47— .49	63	.44— .46
ORIGINAL BAG TEXAS WOOLS (2)							
Fine:							
Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple...	1.30—1.35	54	.60— .62	58	.55— .57	62	.49— .51
*Ave. & Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.25—1.32	55	.56— .59	59	.51— .54	63	.46— .49
*Sh. Fr. Comb. & Clothing....	1.15—1.20	57	.50— .52	61	.45— .47	65	.40— .42
*8 Months (1" and over).....	1.15—1.20	55	.52— .54	58	.48— .50	61	.45— .47
*Fall (¾" and over).....	1.10—1.15	56	.49— .51	59	.45— .47	62	.42— .44

(1) Wools grown in the range areas of Washington, Oregon, the intermountain States, including Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. These wools cover a wide range in shrinkage and color.

(2) Wools grown in the range areas of Texas, mostly bright in color and moderate in shrinkage except in the panhandle where they are considerably darker in color and heavier in shrinkage.

(3) In order to assist in estimating greasy wool prices, clean basis, market prices have been converted to grease basis equivalents. Conversions have been made for various shrinkages quoted. (Prices determined in this manner are largely nominal.)

*Estimated price. No sale reported.

range from 38 to 43 cents, depending on the section and the quality of the wool involved. Dust storms have been bothering in this area.

New!
Columbian's
New Pattern
Sheep Trimming Shears

Small 9" shears feature 3½" blades and close grip for delicate head and leg trimming. Weight only 5½ oz. Highest quality. Leather holster included. Order direct today!

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TEXAS:

A few lots of early-shorn, 12-months' wool were estimated as bringing $1.25 to $1.30 on a clean, Boston landed basis. Most of the activity in Texas, however, was in 8-months' wool. Sales ranged from 50 to 53 cents. Also reported was one sale of 10-months' at 53 cents. The clean, Boston landed price of the wools selling at 50 to 51 cents was estimated to be $1.18 to $1.20, while the 53-cent clips on the same basis would be $1.23 to $1.24.

UTAH:

Around 23,000 fleeces were sold in northern Utah at 40 to 43 cents and a few lots of farm flock wools in the southern part of the State brought 38 to 40 cents.

WASHINGTON:

Late in the month a few clips were reported selling at 38 to 42 cents per grease pound.

WYOMING:

The 1956 Powell Wool Pool was sold during March to the Top Company at 40 cents a pound, with 1/5 of a cent per pound deducted for burry wool. The pool contained about 175,000 pounds of wool, it is reported. In Buffalo 1,500 fleeces were sold at 47½ cents. Three clips were contracted at Rawlins, two at 35 and the other, said to be very heavy, at 29½ cents. The 35-cent clips reportedly sold at 40 cents last year and should have brought more this year because the wools were said to be very much lighter in shrinkage. Early in the month at Casper from 75,000 to 80,000 pounds of old wool was sold at 36⅝ to 39⅝ cents.

INSIST ON WOOL UPHOLSTERY

Mrs. Reynold Seaverson of Rawlins, Wyoming knows that it pays to use all-wool fabrics wherever possible. She recently ordered a new car and insisted that it have all-wool upholstery. She, of course, got the car upholstered in wool.

This is an example of how everyone in the industry should ask for wool upholstery and they will get it. By continually requesting wool, members of the industry can lead the way in bringing favorable results in high wool consumption.

WOOL IMPORTS UP

During January U. S. imports of dutiable wool for consumption came to 18.6 million pounds, actual weight, or 12.3 million pounds, clean content. The clean content total was about 10 percent above that of January 1955.

Total imports for 1955 amounted to 169 million pounds, actual weight, or 113 million pounds, clean content. Although this was about nine million pounds, clean content or eight percent above 1954, it was, except for 1954, the smallest annual total imported since before World War II.

Over 96 percent of last year's total consisted of wools which originated in the five major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere. Australia alone accounted for 47 percent of the total compared with 41 percent in 1954. The Union of South Africa, with 14.9 percent of the total, ranked second as a supplier. Grade 60's and finer wools accounted for 65.3 million pounds, clean content, or about 58 percent of the total, a slightly larger proportion than in 1954.

TEXAS RESOLUTIONS

Directors of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association in their quarterly meeting at Bandera, March 23-24, passed this resolution: "Quotations of wool futures and wool top futures frequently have a depreciating effect on the wool market because the quantity of wool traded at the quoted price is not made public. This operates by virtue of the fact that futures quotation may be low but may only involve one or two contracts which is an insignificant amount of wool and should have no effect whatsoever on the raw wool market but where no quantity is given, it is assumed that the price entails a sufficiently large quantity of wool to have an effect on the market.

"We direct the officers of this Association to take necessary steps to establish the custom of quoting the number of contracts whenever the futures prices are quoted and we ask the assistance of the National Wool Growers Association in bringing this about."

They also asked the assistance of The Wool Bureau in working for increased use of wool in automobile and furniture upholstery.

Vibriosis and Its Subsequent Effect Upon Reproduction in Range Ewes[1]

by EARL L. WIGGINS
United States Department of Agriculture[2]

IN recent years some range sheepmen have suffered rather severe losses from vibriosis. After an outbreak of vibriosis the producer faces the problem of what to do before the next breeding season. Should he attempt to dispose of all of his sheep and start over, should he dispose of all the ewes that aborted, should he bring in replacement ewes, should he dispose of the rams that were bred to the ewes that aborted or should he continue his operation in the normal way just as if nothing had happened?

The U. S. Sheep Experiment Station had a severe outbreak of vibriosis in 1952. Because all the sheep were involved in a long-time breeding experiment and because the available evidence indicated that vibriosis usually does not occur in the same flock for at least several years, it was decided to follow normal procedures. In the fall the ewes were culled as usual for old age, unsoundness, etc. but no effort was made either to eliminate or to retain ewes that had aborted the previous spring. Likewise, in selecting rams for use in breeding, no attempt was made to use or avoid using rams simply because they had been used the fall before. As a result 21 rams that had been used the fall before the vibriosis outbreak were used again the following year.

By the fall of 1953 lamb production records were available on 1768 ewes that had been in the flock during the vibriosis outbreak and also during the following year. These ewes were fairly representative of the whole ewe flock in 1952 in the percentages of ewes having immature lambs and in the percentage of dry ewes (ewes which failed to lamb). Culling practiced the fall after the outbreak of vibriosis resulted in eliminating some ewes with previous poor lamb production records but in general poor lambing records due to vibriosis were not considered. Data were also available on the 1953 lamb production of 692 two-year-old ewes that were added to the breeding flock the fall after the outbreak of vibriosis. These were the yearling ewes on hand the spring the outbreak occurred.

To compare lamb production in the two years, individual ewes within breed and age groups (for example, Columbia ewes born in 1945, Targhee ewes born in 1946, etc.) were placed in one of four classifications on the basis of their 1952 lambing records as follows: dry, immature (aborted) lamb, dead lamb or live lamb. The ewes within each class were similarly classified on the basis of their 1953 lambing records except that ewes having live lambs were subdivided into those having one lamb and those having two or more lambs.

Normal Lamb Production

The percentages of ewes having immature lambs in 1953 were much lower than in 1952 in every breed and age group studied (table 1). They were 2.8 for ewes three years old and older, that is, ewes that had been in the flock the year of the vibriosis outbreak, and 3.2 for the two-year-old ewes. Both percentages were slightly below the average percentage (3.5) of ewes of all ages having immature lambs in this flock from 1940 through 1951. Thus, the percentage of ewes having immature lambs was no higher than normal the year following a bad outbreak of vibriosis either in the ewes retained or in replacement ewes added to the breeding flock.

The percentage of dry ewes was much lower in 1953 than in 1952 in practically every age group within the Columbia and Targhee breeds (table 2.) Overall percentages of dry ewes were 29.0 and 9.0 in Columbias and 23.7 and 6.4 in Targhees in 1952 and 1953 respectively. The 1953 figures are about two percent lower in Columbias and one percent lower in Targhees than the long-time average percentages for these breeds. The percentage of dry ewes in Rambouillets was 8.0 in 1953 as compared with 6.4 in 1952 and a long-time average percentage of 9.4.

Within breed and age groups, ewes with the four kinds of 1952 lambing records (dry, immature or aborted lambs, dead lamb or live lamb) did not differ significantly in their 1953 lamb production as evaluated by the percentage of dry ewes, percentage of ewes having immature lambs, percentage of ewes having one live lamb, percentage of ewes having two or more live lambs, percentage of live lambs born per ewe at lambing, percentage of lambs weaned per ewe, or percentage of live lambs born. The weaning weights of the lambs were not analyzed statistically but it did not appear that significant differences in weaning weights of lambs could be detected in these data.

Over-all lamb production in 1953 as measured by the percentage of ewes lambing, percentage of live lambs of all lambs born, percentage of lambs weaned of live lambs born, and average weaning weight of lambs appeared to be slightly above average. This was probably due to a favorable year rather than to any beneficial effect of vibriosis on lamb production the following year. (It is worth noting that lamb production in 1954 and 1955 was also somewhat above average.)

Effect of Vibriosis

It seems reasonable that two possible effects of vibriosis on later lamb production of ewes in this flock might be expected. It could be assumed that the high percentage of ewes that did not nurse lambs in 1952 would benefit from the rest and would consequently "rebound" in production in 1953 to the extent that the over-all lamb production

[1]A revision of a technical paper of the same title published in the American Journal of Veterinary Research, Vol. 16, No. 59, April, 1955, pp. 214-216.
[2]U. S. Sheep Experiment Station and Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Dubois, Idaho, in cooperation with the University of Idaho.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Earl L. Wiggins who has been employed at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station since 1950 has resigned effective May 1 to accept a position with Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama. In his new position Dr. Wiggins will be an Associate Professor of Animal Husbandry and will be in charge of sheep investigations for the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station. At Dubois he was concerned largely with the research work in physiology of reproduction. He has submitted several articles for publication in the NATIONAL WOOL GROWER and has been quite active in the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Production. Dr. Wiggins reports that a lot of land in Alabama has been shifted from cotton and corn to forage crops and pastures. This has created a very definite interest in sheep in the State. Approximately 40,000 feeder lambs were shipped into the State this past winter.

DR. WIGGINS

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of the flock would be definitely above average. On the other hand, one might reason that a considerable number of ewes that aborted or resorbed their fetuses probably sustained permanent injuries to their genital tracts or to their general health, or to both, that would seriously interfere with their production in subsequent years. The advanced stages of degeneration of some fetuses at time of expulsion, the purulent discharges of some ewes for some time after parturition and the fact that death losses of ewes at lambing seemed higher than normal, could be cited as reasons for thinking that vibrionic infection would permanently injure some ewes.

Since there were no significant differences in the 1953 lamb production of ewes with different kinds of 1952 lambing records, it could be reasoned also that the vibrionic infection in 1952 simply had no long-lasting effects on any of the ewes. However, it seems much more reasonable to assume that both of the effects mentioned previously were operating but that they tended to cancel each other. In other words, some ewes probably did "rebound" in production after a year of rest, but other ewes failed to produce as they would have, had their genital tracts not been injured as a consequence of vibriosis. A careful study of a large body of data would probably yield some information on this point but the present data are inadequate for the purpose.

These results indicate that in the year following an outbreak of vibriosis the over-all production of ewes that aborted, or were dry, was about the same as that of ewes of the same breed and age that reproduced normally during the year of the infection. Therefore, in the event of an outbreak of vibriosis in a flock, it would seem wise to cull the ewes in the usual manner for unsoundness, old age, and not make any special effort to either discard or retain ewes solely on the basis of their lambing record in that year. However, it is emphasized that the results reported here may not be entirely consistent with the results that would be expected in other flocks under different systems of management or even in this flock at another time. It is worth noting, however, that the results reported here are consistent with the belief of most veterinarians and the experience of ranchers that vibriosis rarely occurs in the same flock in successive years unless large numbers of replacement ewes are brought in. Similar studies of other flocks under other conditions of management and in several different years could contribute materially to the knowledge of the effect of vibrionic abortion on subsequent reproductive performance of range ewes.

Table 1. Percentages of Ewes of different ages having immature lambs in 1952 and 1953 (Dry pens excluded)[1]

Breed	Year	No. ewes	Age of ewes in years 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Columbia	1952	524	31	23	20	21	6	14	26
	1953	531	4	4	1	3	0	0	0
Targhee	1952	676	24	31	28	27	18	7	20
	1953	739	4	0	1	1	4	0	9
Rambouillet	1952	1252	31	31	28	24	18	12	10
	1953	1190	2	7	5	1	3	0	0

[1]Ewes from breeding pens in which no ewes lambed were not included in this study because it was thought that their poor reproductive performance was due in part to low fertility of the rams to which they were bred.

Table. 2 Percentages of ewes of different ages that were dry in 1952 and 1953 (Dry pens excluded)[1]

Breed	Year	No. ewes	Age of ewes in years 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Columbia[2]	1952	524	29	40	22	27	19	11	10
	1953	531	17	9	8	0	7	0	7
Targhee[2]	1952	676	29	14	21	27	8	2	7
	1953	739	10	4	1	6	4	10	4
Rambouillet[2]	1952	1252	9	7	6	8	2	2	10
	1953	1190	12	6	4	9	9	7	4

[1]Ewes from breeding pens in which no ewes lambed were not included in this study because it was thought that their poor reproductive performance was due in part to low fertility of the rams to which they were bred.

[2]The higher percentage of dry ewes in the Columbia and Targhee ewes may be the result of more prenatal death and resorption in these breeds. They were bred 18 days later than the Rambouillets and would, therefore, have been in an earlier stage of gestation if both bands were infected at the same time. Resorption is more likely to occur early in gestation while abortion is more likely to occur late in gestation.

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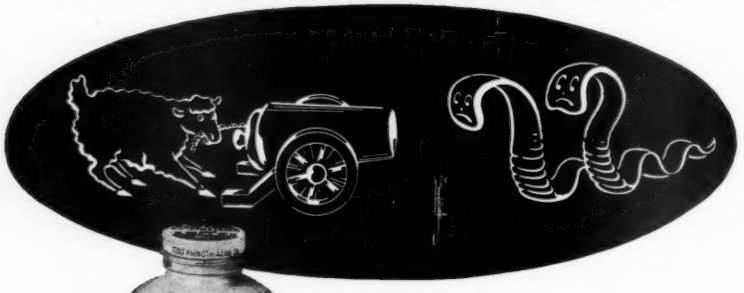

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Advances Made in Fight Against Scabies Spread

THERE'S a silver lining to the black-looking scabies picture shown last month. A conference Executive Secretary Marsh had with Dr. J. L. Hourrigan of USDA's Animal Disease Eradication Branch before leaving Washington revealed these facts about the present situation:

First of all, Dr. Hourrigan thinks more scabies cases are being reported because some of the States are taking a more aggressive attitude in getting reports. Second, there probably is actually a little more scabies this year After the Chicago meeting last year the Animal Disease Eradication Branch borrowed three experienced men from the Louisiana area and sent them to Virginia and West Virginia where some new infection was uncovered. A number of infected flocks were also discovered in Missouri and a very active campaign is in progress there to eradicate the disease. Next, the A.D.E.B. has been doing a lot of sheep inspection for scrapie and that probably has stimulated more inspection for scabies.

In the Chicago conference the USDA's officials stated that they were developing a plan looking toward the eradication of scabies. Parts of that plan are now made known. Fifty veterinarians have been set to a scabies school in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There they have both cattle and sheep infected with scabies, and first-hand observation makes it possible for veterinarians to recognize more easily lesions resulting from scabies. The Department is also issuing a kit of 45 colored slides as visual aids in disseminating information about scabies. They also have in preparation a film on cattle and sheep scabies that should be ready not later than this coming fall.

To distribute a quicker picture of the sheep scabies situation, the Animal Disease Eradication Branch is putting out a monthly animal morbidity report. This will keep State veterinarians and others informed each month on the scabies situation, which should be helpful in stimulating aggressive action against the disease. Dr. Hourrigan, however, points out the difficulty in the eradication of this disease at present because it is largely located in the farm flock States, where a man has a few sheep and also cattle and hogs and there is little interest in reporting scabies. However, that is a difficulty that can be overcome through education, and real progress is being made in that direction.

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Report: APRIL LAMB MARKET

Spring Lamb Runs Push Prices to $26 High

LIMITED receipts with a larger percentage of spring lamb offerings pushed April slaughter lamb prices forcibly upwards to a month end high of $26.

Prices paid on old-crop wooled slaughter lambs held firm during April. Spring lamb interest increased as the month grew old and inevitably, prices moved higher. Among the late-month bullish influences in the trade were strength in wholesale lamb prices and expectation in some quarters of moderately reduced marketings in the near future.

The April $26 top was paid at Omaha and an early month low of $19.75 for choice and prime old-crop offerings was paid at most terminal markets. Top quality old-crop slaughter lamb offerings sold mostly from $20 to $22.

Good and choice slaughter lambs sold as low as $17 and as high as $23 during April. Of course, the low figure (paid at Ogden) was on old-crop offerings, and the high figure (paid at Fort Worth) was on spring offerings.

The bulk of old-crop good and choice slaughter lambs sold from $18.50 to $21.

Dressed carcass prices in New York became increasingly strong to reach a month-end high of $46 for both choice and prime and good and choice offerings. Most April sales of top quality carcasses were made in a $38 to $46 price range. Good and choice carcasses sold mostly at from $36 to $45.

Slaughter ewe prices dropped considerably from the highs paid in March. Poorer quality and less buying interest brought the drop.

Good and choice slaughter ewes sold at from $5 to $9, the low price paid at Omaha and the high at Denver. Most of these ewes sold in a range of from $7 to $8.50.

Both the April high and low price of from $2.50 to $8 was paid at Denver for cull and utility slaughter ewes. These ewes bulked at near $4 to $7.

The only markets reporting sales of good and choice feeder lambs, and in very limited supplies, were Denver and Fort Worth. These feeder offerings brought from $17 to $18.75 during the month.

(Mike Hayes, Denver commission man, advised in a phone conversation with the NATIONAL WOOL GROWER office on April 27 that spring lambs on the Denver market were bringing 24 cents. Also, as an example of the rising market at Denver during the week ending April 27, he quoted fed lambs from one northern Colorado feeder which sold at $19.75 on Monday, $20.25 on Tuesday, $20.50 on Wednesday, $21.00 on Thursday and $21.20 on Friday. Mr. Hayes also advised of a new train service to New York leaving Denver Saturday morning with deliveries in New York Wednesday morning. Also lambs leaving Denver on the noon train Monday will be slaughtered in New York the following Friday.)

Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last

Total U. S. Inspected	1956	1955
Slaughter, First Three Months	3,708,000	3,547,000
Week Ended	April 21	April 23
Slaughter at Major Centers	244,747	264,075
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Wooled):		
Choice and Prime	$21.12	$22.15
Good and Choice	20.42	21.25
New York Av. Western Dressed Lamb Prices:		
Prime, 40-50 pounds	45.00	43.00
Choice, 40-50 pounds	45.00	43.00

Federally Inspected Slaughter—March

	1956	1955
Cattle	1,566,000	1,524,000
Calves	647,000	660,000
Hogs	6,327,000	5,491,000
Sheep and Lambs	1,216,000	1,244,000

COUNTRY SALES AND CONTRACTING

COLORADO

Early in April a 4,000 head string of choice fed lambs with fall shorn pelts was contracted in the Arkansas Valley of Colorado at $20 for delivery to a Colorado packer over the next 30 days.

CALIFORNIA

A string of 3,000 spring lambs on the west side of California's San Joaquin Valley was contracted during April at $22 with delivery at grower's option up to June 15. These lambs are expected to be choice and prime near 100 pounds when delivered.

California spring lamb prices strengthened as the month progressed. Some lambs continued to be discounted at 10 cents per hundredweight for each pound over 95 pounds.

In the Sacramento Valley several thousand mostly choice spring lambs sold at $21 with some for immediate delivery and others to be delivered into May 15.

Early in the month moderate volume of straight feeder lambs sold in the Sacramento Valley at $17 to $17.50, delivery dates immediate to past middle of May.

INTERMOUNTAIN AREA

Around four loads of choice ranch spring lambs sold in the Burley, Idaho district at $21.50 to $21.80 from shipping pools. In the Buhl, Idaho area a few carloads scored $22. One band of yearling ewes sold for August delivery at $22.50 per head.

For the week ending April 21, California spring lambs passing through the Ogden gateway numbered 122 decks or 13,875 head. This brings this season's total to date 960 decks or 103,478 head compared with 677 decks or 81,103 head for the corresponding period in 1955.

Passings through Salt Lake City for the week ending April 21 amounted to seven decks or 840 head with the season to date totaling 86 decks or 11,051 head against 147 decks or 19,315 head in the corresponding period of 1955.

MONTANA

A series of contracts were drawn in Montana during April on blackfaced lambs for September 15 to 25 delivery. These contracts were more of a specialty nature in the acquisition of ewe lambs. In the Browning area 500 black-

faced ewe lambs sold for fall delivery at $17.50.

In the Big Timber area, 1,100 ewe lambs sold at $18.50 and 2,700 mixed lambs from $16.75 to $17.

In the Norris area 2,200 mixed lambs and wethers sold at $15.50, while 1,800 mixed lambs sold at $16.50 in the Milligan area.

Around 1,000 head of six-year-old well-wintered fine-wooled ewes bred to blackfaced bucks for April 25 lambing made $15 per head.

Earlier in the month 1,200 head of coming two-year-old whitefaced ewes in the wool bred for late April lambing were reportedly sold at $24 per head in northern Montana. In the Great Falls area, some 3,500 head of coming yearling wooled whitefaced ewes were delivered at prices ranging from $20.50 per hundredweight to $23 per head, estimated weights around 105 to 109 pounds.

WASHINGTON

A few truckloads of fed clipped old-crop slaughter lambs on a delivered to Washington plant basis brought $16 for around 100-pound averages and $15 for 115 pounds. Good and choice fed wooled lambs around 100 pounds brought $17, f.o.b.

Truck lots of good and choice under 150-pound shorn slaughter ewes brought $5 delivered to plant basis; 1,000 head two- to four-year-old whitefaced ewes with lambs at side sold at $26.50 f.o.b. immediate delivery out of the wool. A small band of two to five-year-olds brought $22 per pair with extra lambs at $8.

Lamb Dish of the Month

BROILED LAMB LOIN CHOPS

Mother's Day Menu

Tomato Soup
Broiled Lamb Loin Chops
with
Grilled Pineapple Rings
Whipped Potatoes
Peas and Cauliflower
Mixed Green Salad
Poppyseed Twists
Butter or Margarine
Coconut Cream Pie
Coffee Tea Milk

Broiled Lamb Loin Chops

6 lamb loin chops, cut 1 to 2 inches thick
Salt
Pepper

Set regulator to broil. Place chops on broiler rack. Insert broiler pan and rack so the top of 1-inch chops is 2 inches from the heat, and 2-inch chops is 3 inches from the heat. When one side is browned, season, turn and finish cooking on the second side. Season. Chops cut 1-inch thick require 10 to 12 minutes. Chops cut 2 inches thick require 20 to 22 minutes. Yield: 6 servings.

For additional spice, when preparing broiled lamb chops, simply marinate the chops for 2 to 3 hours.

Marinated Lamb Chops

6 lamb loin or rib chops
½ cup olive oil
¼ cup vinegar
Juice of 1 lemon
1 bay leaf, crumbled
½ teaspoon peppercorns
2 onions, finely minced
Salt and pepper

Cover lamb chops with mixture of olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, and seasonings. Allow to stand in refrigerator for 2 to 3 hours. Broil as directed in preceding recipe.

(Department of Home Economics, National Live Stock and Meat Board)

No Agreement Reached On Grading Standards

OPINIONS differ among various segments of the lamb industry, both as to the advisability of changing present Federal grading standards on carcass lamb and also regarding the merits of Federal grading itself. This was evidenced once again when a lamb grading conference was held in Denver, Colorado on April 19.

Primary push for a change in specifications for "choice" lamb carcasses has come from the Western States Meat Packers Association. It was this organization that requested the National Wool Growers Association to call the meeting as early as possible in an effort to secure action on recommendations for changes in Federal grading standards of "choice" lamb which were approved both by the Western States Meat Packers and the National Wool Growers Association as an outcome of the lamb grading meeting in Salt Lake City last summer.

The changes proposed would widen the number of lambs permitted in the "choice" grade, taking in some now being graded "good." The recommended changes would admit some lambs not now making the "choice" grade because, under present specifications, they would have a slight lack of sufficient feathering, too dark a color of lean and too soft a flank when freshly chilled.

Opinion was not unanimous that the change should be made and there were some objections to changing standards. Criticism of maintenance of any Federal grading was also expressed by Garland Russell, Swift and Company and Paul Etchepare, representing the National Lamb Feeders Association.

Following discussion, a motion was passed that a petition be sent to the Secretary of Agriculture, requesting that the proposed changes in the "choice" grade be published in the Federal Register, to give opportunity for criticism or endorsement of the proposal by those interested. The petition was signed by several of the chain store representatives, Western States Meat

Packers Association, Archie McFarland and Son, (a Salt Lake City meat packing firm) California Wool Growers Association and National Wool Growers Association.

A total of 32 people attended the meeting, including representatives of the Meat Grading Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, retail chain stores, packers, commission firms, lamb producers and feeders.

Mike Hayes, Denver commission man, was most helpful in lining up all meeting arrangements at the Denver Stockyards, and appreciation should also be expressed to Mr. Howard Linger, Executive Secretary of the Denver Livestock Exchange for use of their meeting room, and also to Messrs. Harry Allen, General Manager, and John Ironfield of Armour and Company for permitting the group to inspect lambs in the cooler.

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Before I can determine the true market value of your lambs each day, I must know receipts at the 12 major markets, the trend of dressed trade at the major wholesale centers, both East and West Coast, and the packer (large and small) purchases over the country. I must also know the current value of various grades and weights of your lambs, percent of dressing as well as credits — pelt, casing, hearts, livers, etc. These all vary.

Lambs bought in Denver Tuesday are killed in the New York area the following Monday. The New York area kills about 22% of the Federally Inspected lambs, so to get market value—

Ship 'em to . . .

MIKE HAYES

Union Stockyards - - - Denver, Colorado

Wool Scouring Causes Pollution Problem

OF all the people involved in producing woolens, the sheep has without doubt the easiest job. Raw wool processors have one of the more difficult jobs—disposing of the waste from scouring wool with soap or synthetic detergents to remove wool grease (crude lanolin) and miscellaneous dirt. Wool scouring waste is a particularly bad stream pollutant because of its high content of grease and water-soluble organic matter. Worse, most of our wool scouring is done in heavily industrialized, pollution-conscious New England.

Two years ago, Willie Fong of USDA's Western Utilization Research Branch at Albany, California, went to work on the problem. About one third of this country's wool scouring mills recover crude lanolin, a salable by-product, from their wastes, so Fong looked first at recovery methods, any improvement of which would yield both more lanolin and less pollution.

Centrifuging, the method used most, removes but 30 percent of the grease and almost none of the dissolved organics from scouring wastes, which must thus be treated further. Acid cracking removes twice as much grease as centrifuging, but yields an acidic effluent with still high organic content. And acid cracking does not easily break the stable emulsions produced in scouring wastes by synthetic detergents, used more and more to scour wool.

In acid cracking, sulfuric acid is added to the waste to bring pH* to about 3.5. Grease and dirt settle by gravity and are removed, and the grease is recovered by plate and frame filtration under heat and pressure. Fong's approach was to add various coagulants and adsorbents to the waste during acid cracking. After trying starch, soluble synthetic polymers, and natural gums, he found bentonite to be specific.

Fong's method acidifies the waste with sulfuric acid to pH 3 to 4, and adds bentonite in aqueous dispersion (0.1 to 0.5 percent based on volume of waste treated.) Bentonite promotes grease coagulation and adsorbs selectively part of the water-soluble organics. Result: a voluminous precipitated sludge and a nearly clear, light-yellow effluent (compared to the turbid, light-brown effluent from acid cracking alone). At its best, the acid-bentonite treatment ups grease removal by more than 40 percent (to 95 percent removal in representative scouring wastes) and cuts B.O.D.** by more than 60 percent, almost twice the reduction effected by acid cracking alone. Plant tests show the sludge can be separated from the clarified effluent by gravity sedimentation in conventional acid cracking equipment. Further, the effluent is clean enough possibly to be recycled so as to save soap and detergent.

So much for clean effluent. How about wool grease recovery? At the moment, plate and frame filter pressing of the sludge seems out. Hexane extraction is technically sound, but no one has studied its economics in detail. More efficient recovery of wool grease could well be worth while, however. It sells for 6 to 36 cents a pound, depending on purity, and annual U. S. production averages about 10 million pounds, an estimated 10 to 15 percent of the amount that could be recovered.

Wool grease goes into cosmetics, leather, lubricants, rust preventives, and many other products. Wool grease contains a complex mixture of fatty acids and alcohols and its chemistry is imperfectly understood. USDA's Eastern Utilization Research Branch in Philadelphia is working on industrial utilization of the product, particularly of its chemical components, however. The world's sheep had better look out for their waterproofing.—K.M.R.

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*A scale of measurement of both acidity and alkalinity in units which can be measured directly by means of a hydrogen electrode.

**Biological oxygen demand, indicative of the polluting or oxygen-demanding elements.

1955-56 WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION INCREASES

World wool production for 1955-56 will probably be around 4,037,000,000 pounds on a grease basis. This is 4 percent more than the revised figure, 3,885,000,000 pounds, for 1954-55. The estimate does not include wool produced in Soviet Russia, China and Eastern Europe. Production in that area is figured at 800 million pounds, greasy, compared with 733 million pounds last year. Based on this estimate, Soviet Russia is second only to Australia as a wool producing country.

Around the Range Country

Around the Range Country gives our readers a chance to express their opinions about anything pertaining to the industry or about life in general. In offering this space for free expression of thought, the National Wool Grower assumes no responsibility for any statement made. The statements about range pasture conditions are taken from the U. S. Weather Bureau report for the week ending April 23, 1956.

ARIZONA

Temperatures below normal at beginning of week, rising to above normal near end. Showers at higher elevations in north middle of week; totals over one-half inch in White Mountains. Widely scattered showers over Yuma, Maricopa, and southern counties produced little moisture where needed. Most grain heading and developing well. Ranges in central and north improving, but some still dry in south. Some stock water shortage in south.

CALIFORNIA

Sunny and warm. Some scattered, light showers and thunderstorms in southern Sierras and southern California on 17th and 18th, but generally little or no precipitation in most of State. Temperatures averaged from near normal in coastal sections to more than six degrees above normal in Sacramento Valley and Sierras. Warm, sunny weather favorable for outdoor operations and most ranges and growing crops.

Oroville, Butte County
April 13, 1956

The lambs in this area are not as good as they should be at this time of year. I have seen many poor lambs.

There was a lot of rain here during lambing. We have just about the same amount of lambs saved per hundred ewes this year as last.

Prices on fat lambs are running from $18.50 to $20 per hundredweight. Feeder lambs are selling at 17 cents.

Sheep wintered very well with lots of feed. Weather and feed conditions on the range have been good since April 1.

Shearing begins here about the first of May. Shearers will receive 50 cents per head with board.

—F. H. Park

COLORADO

Temperatures generally near normal; slightly below seasonal in northeast and west, slightly above in Arkansas Valley. Precipitation heavy in upper Arkansas Basin, near normal in west and along Continental Divide, to none in northeast. Fall grains showing average to poor; some fields stooling in extreme northeast; bugs and worms causing considerable damage; spraying under way. Irrigation water supply improved in Arkansas Valley due to heavy snow at higher elevations.

IDAHO

Average temperatures above normal throughout State. Showers early in week brought moderate to heavy rainfall to several stations in north and southwest, light in parts of east, little or none in south-central. Warm, sunny weather latter half of week permitted first fieldwork in parts of east and north and increased planting activities generally. Unirrigated pastures and lower ranges dry in south and cattle still on feed lots in many areas. Streamflow increased rapidly, but little flooding so far and substantial amounts of water being diverted to irrigation.

Rupert, Minidoka County
April 11, 1956

Some sheep in this section have been shorn. The small ranch flocks will finish by May 20. The contract shearing rate has been around 50 cents per head. This rate includes putting wool in the bag and no board. With board the rate is 48 cents per head.

We sell our lambs and wool through the Minidoka lamb and wool pool. They have done a wonderful job of selling the lambs and wool at good prices during the years.

Some 7,700 fleeces were sold here recently through the pool at 41⅛ cents, f.o.b. car at Rupert.

Our sheep wintered very well. Most desert bands were moving soon after April 1.

The percentage of lambs saved per hundred ewes compares favorably with a year ago. It rained continually during lambing.

On March 19 fat lambs brought $18 per hundredweight. Then on April 3, they made $20.05 per hundred. Feeder lambs have sold at $2 per hundredweight less.

There have been some recent sales of yearling ewes in small numbers. Fine-wooled yearling ewes have sold at from $22 to $24 in the wool. White-faced crossbred yearling ewes have brought from $22 to $25 in the wool.

—Don E. Hackney

MONTANA

Cold in eastern third, warm west of Divide, and seasonable temperatures in central. Precipitation occurred on first and last days; totals light in northeast and light to moderate elsewhere, except heavy in Flathead Valley. Soil moisture for germinating new seedings adequate in west, south-central, and part of central; short

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By advertising in the NATIONAL WOOL GROWER magazine you can reach an important sheepman audience of near 10,000 readers. These sheepmen readers buy numerous rams each year. With the 1955 wool incentive payments to be made shortly, they will have available funds to increase their herd numbers. As you know, the purpose of the Wool Act, under which incentive payments are made, is to bring about increased production.

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elsewhere. Growth of range grass slow due to lack of moisture and cold nights. Supplemental feeding of cattle beginning to decline, as new grass becomes available. Newborn calves and lambs in good condition; losses low due to ideal weather conditions.

NEVADA

Nights continue rather cool. Daytime temperatures warmed up gradually. A few, scattered showers and absence of drying winds helped range conditions and spring operations in general. Irrigation supplies abundant in west and good along Humboldt River; some shortage expected in south. Livestock generally fair to good, except in extreme south.

NEW MEXICO

Cold most of week, warming somewhat at close. A few scattered showers, but only appreciable moisture along extreme eastern and western borders. Winter grains still suffering from lack of moisture. Alfalfa generally making satisfactory development. Drought and cold preventing any spring range growth. Supplemental feeding of livestock necessary in most areas.

OREGON

Temperatures for week near seasonal average along coast, elsewhere above. Warmest weather of year to-date in progress as period ended, although weekly minima slightly below freezing recorded over most of State. Except for light showers, period clear with sunshine abundant. Marked improvement in pastures and ranges in all areas, but still behind schedule with only limited green feed available. Livestock in fair to good shape, with feed adequate.

Roseburg, Douglas County
April 10, 1956

We run a farm flock of 250 ewes. Our sheep did not come through the winter in very good condition. Lack of grass hindered our flock, and we had to do a lot of supplemental feeding. Weather and feed conditions since the first of April have been fair.

Shearing will begin here on June 1. Contract rate with board is 36 cents a head. This rate covers shearing only.

Wet weather prevailed here during lambing. We have fewer lambs saved per hundred ewes than we had a year ago.

—John Busenbark

Telocaset, Union County
April 15, 1956

It is just plain tough to make ends meet with range sheep. I feel that a good tariff on wool would be the way to put the sheep business back on its feet.

I haven't heard of any movement of any kind in lambs, but there are a lot of ewe buyers around. Some fine-wooled yearling ewes have sold at $20 per head. Whitefaced crossbred yearling ewes have brought $22 per head.

Weather and feed conditions on the range have been very good since April 1. Our sheep came through the winter in good shape, although a long feeding season and wet weather brought us more losses than usual. We, of course, did more supplemental feeding this year than usual.

Shearing will be done in this area sometime in May, depending on when we can get shearers. The contract rate with board is 30 cents per head. This rate includes just the shearing. We furnish the rest of the crew.

There have been no transactions in wool here. The 1955 crop that was contracted sold at from 42 to 45 cents a pound.

A good many more lambs were saved per hundred ewes during lambing this year than a year ago. It was very wet during lambing.

—R. C. Black

SOUTH DAKOTA

Cool with light northerly winds except on Friday when afternoon readings were 70 degrees to 80 degrees. Very hard freeze Monday morning, with minimum 14 degrees at Aberdeen. Little or no precipitation, making 18 days since last appreciable rain. Topsoil moisture still adequate, but subsoil moisture short. Low temperatures caused some loss of newborn livestock. Hay supplies practically exhausted in southern counties along Missouri River.

Castle Rock, Butte County
March 27, 1956

In general feed has been short here because of the dry season last summer and fall. Our sheep have wintered very well, however.

Asking price for fine-wooled yearling ewes has been $23, but there have been no sales at that figure.

Shearing will be done here in early June. Last year we paid shearers 37 cents with no board. They did all the labor that pertained to shearing and got the wool in the bag.

—George J. Johnson

Harding, Harding County
April 12, 1956

We need to get better prices for our wool and lambs. Our incoming prices are out of proportion with the money we have to put out.

Conditions have not been good in this area since the first of April. It has been too cold to start grass growing. Our sheep wintered well, but we had to feed lots of grain.

A few flocks have been shorn here already, and the balance will be shorn in June. Contract rate for shearing without board is about 40 cents a head. This labor includes getting the wool into the bag.

No one here is through with lambing yet. We will have enough help for lambing.

—R. H. Kehrberg

(Continued on page 36.)

Breeders Directory

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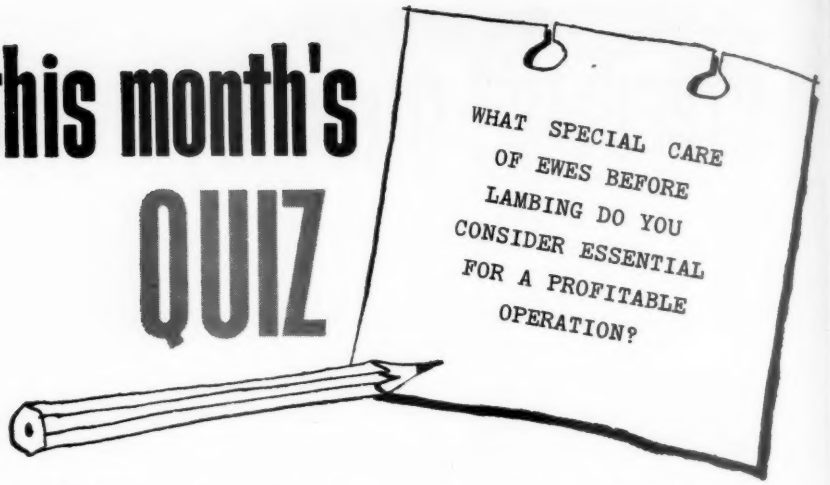
In a few short years we've seen the discovery of antibiotics, new wonder drugs for tuberculosis, a vaccine for polio. We will see the conquest of cancer, too, if people want it badly enough. Last year the American Cancer Society was unable to fill requests for research funds totalling almost $3,000,000. The reason— not enough money. Did you give all you could? Will you give all you can? Give to your Unit of the American Cancer Society, or mail your gift to CANCER, c/o your town's Postmaster.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

this month's QUIZ



Ewes should have some grain along with their other feed and should be fed and not just turned out to rustle after lambing. The feeding after lambing will pay off big in wool and lambs.

—F. H. Park
Oroville, California

As I run from 200 to 250 ewes on an irrigated farm and keep them on the place the year around, my problems differ from the operators who finish their lambs on the forest reserves at higher elevations.

I must breed to lamb by the 10th of December to get my lambs marketed between Arizona and California lambs and our own desert and forest lambs. Roughly, this leaves us from April 15 through the month of May to get our lambs to the packers at a premium.

Perhaps an essential before lambing should be regular and sufficient exercise. After lambing ewes with twin lambs should be separated from the singles and fed enough more to make up for the demands of an added lamb. I feel it is essential to provide sufficient food to insure lactation of the ewe until the lamb is sold.

—Don E. Hackney
Rupert, Idaho

Personally, I believe that extra feeding and care of ewes before lambing is essential. A good strong lamb and plenty of milk make for good lambing conditions. We usually feed some pellets all winter because our hay is just a wild meadow type.

Then, about a month before lambing, we feed more pellets than during the winter. We have pellets made from our own grain, barley and oats with some minerals and protein concentrate added.

We lamb at the ranch and hope for some green grass to be ready shortly after lambing is finished, which is the best milk producer I know of.

—Willis Brothers
Elijah C. Willis
Laketown, Utah

Care of ewes before lambing should begin with the breeding season. Ewes should be placed on a good pasture or good feed with a grain supplement. Water, salt and some minerals are necessary.

Ewes should be protected from any sudden and severe changes in weather. They should be on the gain, for thrifty ewes at breeding time will reflect a bigger and healthier lamb crop.

Range ewes do not need any special care through the remainder of the gestation period, but good feed and water are essential.

Make provisions for shelter in extremely cold weather. After lambing the best place for ewes and lambs is out on green pasture with plenty of water, and they will do well.

—E. E. Junek
Redig, South Dakota

We are strictly range operators, but we lamb in corrals. I know that it is essential to have ewes in good condition before lambing. If the feed on the range is not sufficient to condition them, then I think the only alternative is to feed some kind of concentrate.

I am partial to cottonseed pellets if the price is comparable to grain pellets. This past winter, cottonseed pellets could be bought here for $71.35 per ton. We had a pellet made that we liked that cost us $61 per ton. This is what it consisted of: 1,190 pounds of barley; 550 pounds of cottonseed meal; 100 pounds of molasses; 100 pounds of dry beet pulp; 20 pounds of bone meal; and 40 pounds of salt trace.

The feeding of oats can't be beat during lambing and after lambing. It seems to make the ewes have plenty of milk.

—Alex Williams
Cedar City, Utah

I think you should feed your ewes to keep them in good condition for lambing. Exercise is also very important. I don't think that ewes should be penned up too long before lambing.

You really have to put out the feed through lambing and after lambing until ewes and lambs can be turned out on the range. During feeding, of course, is the time when expenses really mount up, but a person can't put out a good crop of lambs without putting a lot into the lambing.

—R. C. Black
Telocaset, Oregon

We consider tagging of ewes before lambing as an essential to a profitable lambing operation.

—John Busenbark
Roseburg, Oregon

Rambouillet Ram Sale Set for June in Texas

THE 20th annual San Angelo, Texas, Registered Rambouillet Ram Sale, sponsored by the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Association, has been set for June 14-16. It will be held at the San Angelo Fairgrounds.

A 13-man committee of Rambouillet breeders appointed by Texas officers of the Association to conduct the Sale, met April 7 to make final plans.

As in previous sales, a five-man committee will pick the rams good enough to be designated studs from a pen holding the best two rams of each consignor. The committee will also rate the studs as No. 1 or No. 2 in quality and will pass on the pens of three, designated A-B-C pens, which are sold with the buyer privileged to take all or any part of the pen.

The sale will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 16. Approximately 300 top rams are expected to be consigned, all bred by consignors representing the Nation's leading registered Rambouillet flocks.

Clyde Thate, Association Vice-President from Burkett, Texas, was elected chairman of the ram sale committee and sale manager. Mrs. Russell G. Harlow, association secretary will serve as sale secretary. Lem Jones, Junction, Texas, is the auctioneer. Other committee members include R. O. Sheffield, San Angelo; Leo Richardson, Iraan; John Williams, Eldorado; Pat Rose, Jr., Del Rio; Dempster Jones, Ozona; Miles Pierce, Alpine; Louis Tongate, Brookesmith; L. F. Hodges, Sterling City; Carlton Bierschwale, Segovia; Louis A. Bridges, Bronte; Harold Price, Eden; and T. A. Kincaid, Jr., Ozona.

Top Fat Lamb Prices Paid At Grand National Auction

TOP price of $1.10 per pound was paid at the fat lamb auction at the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition, held March 28 in the San Francisco Cow Palace. The bid was made by Swift and Co., for the Lincoln Market in Berkeley, for a Champion FFA Shropshire raised and exhibited by Richard Thomas, a Future Farmer of America member from Herbert Slater High School in Santa Rosa, California.

The new breed championship system at the Junior Show proved its value, as buyers bid the highest prices ever recorded at the annual youth event. Other high prices were offered by The Emporium, downtown and Stonestown of San Francisco, with Luce & Co. bidding. The famous department store paid Robert Barr, of the Petaluma, Sonoma County 4-H, $1 per pound for his Champion 4-H Shropshire.

Kendra Lane, of Clements, San Joaquin County 4-H, also received $1 per pound for her Champion 4-H Hampshire. The bidder was the Modesto Meat Company.

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RANGE COUNTRY

(*Continued from page 32.*)

Redig, Harding County
April 17, 1956

Weather has been good here since the first of April, but grass is a little slow in coming.

Our sheep came through the winter very well. Losses were light—below normal. We fed range cubes and corn silage during the winter.

About half of the sheep have been shorn here. The rest will be shorn in June. Contract shearing rate is 39 cents per head in the bag. Shearers will be paid 35 cents per head with board.

Some early shorn wool sold here at from 45 to 48 cents per pound.

The bulk of lambing starts about April 25. Prospects for sufficient lambing help are good.

Very few yearling ewes have been sold here. Some whitefaced crossbreds sold at $21 per head.

Our main problem at present is marketing wool. It seems the wool market in the United States should have the number 1 place on the reform list. There is no commonsense wool market. It's simply a matter of the buyer and the seller trying to outbluff one another.

You get no credit for turning in an honest fleece. More likely, you get penalized. We might as well revert to the sandbox system of early days when that was standard equipment in many shearing pens and each fleece was rolled in sand before being tossed in the sack.

—E. E. Junek

TEXAS

Critical drought conditions dominated farm activity over much of the State. Additional wheat went out in northwest, although cool, showery weather reduced losses. Range and pasture feed continued on down-grade. Drought emergency feed moving into west. Yearlings and spring lambs moved in fair volume.

UTAH

Temperatures about normal, with daytime temperatures rising above normal latter part of week. Showery and cloudy weather first half of week, but amounts mostly light except moderately heavy in Uintah Basin. Hay carryover supplies generally good.

Cedar City, Iron County
April 8, 1956

We had good weather for lambing here. There are about the same number of lambs saved per hundred ewes as last year.

Weather and feed conditions on the summer range since April 1 have been fair. Our sheep came through the winter in good shape. We did no supplemental feeding.

Some shearing has been done here. I will shear on April 21. The contract rate for shearing is 50 cents per head without board.

—Parson U. Webster

SHEEPHERDER SAM

"Sometimes I wish fishing wasn't so much fun."

Cedar City, Iron County
April 13, 1956

About 15 herds of sheep from Cedar City go into southeastern Nevada to winter. We were out on snow about two weeks all winter. The remainder of the time we hauled water.

Most of these sheep start lambing May 1. But some of the herds are coming home early to be put on hay and grain. It is so dry in our part of Nevada the sheep were going down in flesh every day. We ordinarily do not leave Nevada until April 15, but we left there March 25 this year.

It has been dry and windy here since the first of April. Our sheep wintered fairly well, although we had to feed all winter.

Most farm sheep are shorn. Shearing on range sheep began about April 10. The contract rate for shearing is 50 cents per head. This includes taking care of the wool and wrangling. We do not board shearers in this locality.

The only lambing started here as yet is among farm flocks.

I have not heard of any lambs being sold or contracted in this area.

—Alex B. Williams

Laketown, Rich County
April 14, 1956

Weather has been good. All sheep are being fed hay. Our flock came through the winter in good shape. During the winter we fed wild meadow hay and grain pellets.

Shearing will be done here in May and the first part of June. There have not been any contracts for shearing made that I know of. Most shearing here is done by local men. The cost is about 40 cents a head.

Weather for lambing has been good so far. Some higher percentages of lambs saved per hundred ewes will be registered this year over last because of favorable lambing weather.

It seems hard to find good herders. Sheep shearers seem more interested in some quick money than in helping to do a good job of caring for wool at shearing time. It is hard for us to pay expenses and have anything left to show for our efforts.

—Elijah C. Willis

WASHINGTON

Dry, warm, and sunny throughout week. A few, light showers in west and extreme east first of week; amounts trace to 0.05 inch. Pasture growth slow and many being reseeded due to damage from freeze last fall. Cattle being turned on pastures. Tent caterpillars appearing in some areas of west.

WYOMING

State average temperatures near normal, with warm days and cool nights. Precipitation much below normal, with some beneficial amounts in southeast corner. Farming activities off to good start, because of general dryness in most areas.

Garrett, Albany County
April 12, 1956

All the ewe lambs have been sold from this area, and too many sheep bands here are old.

It has been cool and dry during the past little while. Our sheep came through the winter in fair shape with about a normal amount of supplemental feeding.

Last year we had some unusual sheep losses from plant poisoning.

Shearing begins here about May 10. Shearers will receive 42 cents per head with board.

—Robert J. Sturgeon

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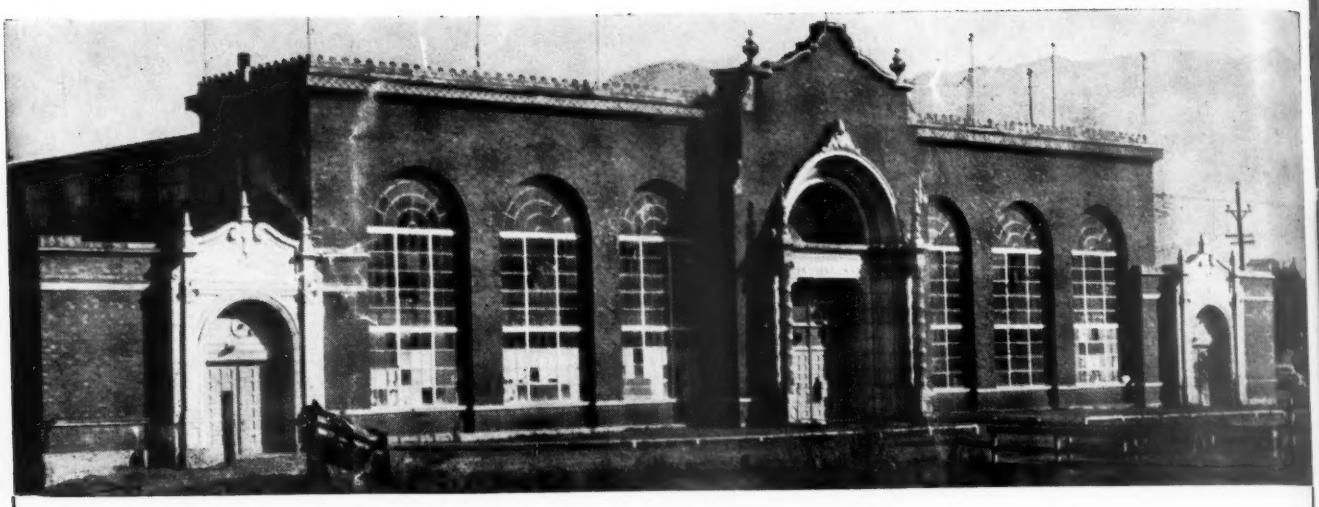

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